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THE TIMES OF INDIA

INCLUDES 4 PAGES OF BANGALORE TIMES

INDIA'S LARGEST ENGLISH NEWSPAPER

At the annual Nvidia GTC event in Taipei, CEO **Jensen Huang unveils new powerful chips** that would bring advanced artificial intelligence functions into laptops and desktop computers, **P 14**

Malaysia enforces rules that require social media platforms **to implement age-verification systems and block users under 16** from creating accounts, barring millions of children from having social media accounts

Sri Lanka is facing a "crisis" and **needs to curb fuel consumption to avoid further economic strain**, says minister of energy Anura Karunathilake amid soaring energy prices and global supply disruption

With series locked at 1-1, Harmanpreet Kaur-led India take on England **in the third and final match at Taunton today**, the last dress rehearsal before taking on Pak in the Women's T20 World Cup, which is scheduled to begin later this month, **P 16**

With 5 new judges, SC at highest strength of 37

The law ministry on Monday notified appointment of five judges — four high court chief justices and a senior advocate — for the SC, taking its strength to 37, including the CJI. This is the apex court's highest ever strength, following the Centre's ordinance in May raising SC's sanctioned strength from 34 to 38. With these appointments, the SC will still have one vacancy to be filled up as per the enhanced sanctioned strength. **P 16**

Twisha death: CBI runs dummy test

CBI on Monday recreated the circumstances of former model-actor Twisha Sharma's death by using a sand-filled dummy weighing around 80kg, **reports P Naveen.** The agency was testing the plausibility of ex-judge Giribala Singh and her lawyer son Samarth bringing the deceased down after her alleged suicide at the marital home on May 12. **P 5**

Zee bags Fifa WC India telecast rights

Just 10 days before the start of the football World Cup on June 11, Zee Entertainment reached an agreement with Fifa over broadcast rights in India. Zee will air the World Cup through its Unite8 Sports network. **P 16**

Row over BJP ticket to Supriya relative

Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) took a dig at NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule Monday, a day after BJP nominated businessman Arun Lakhani, the to-be father-in-law of her daughter Revati, as its MLC candidate. **P 8**

CBSE purge likely as OSM tender under MoE review

Details Sought On Contract To Hyd's Tech Co

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New Delhi: Heads are likely to roll in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) as the education ministry has initiated an internal crackdown over alleged irregularities in a controversial tender process for the board's digital evaluation ecosystem which was found to have vulnerabilities.

Explanations provided by CBSE, so far, on the tender issue have not been found to be satisfactory, and accountability is now likely to be fixed at multiple levels inside the board, according to ministry sources.

"Detailed reports have been sought on awarding the contract to Hyderabad-based Coempt Edu Tech as part of the procurement process linked to the board's 'On Screen Marking (OSM)' system as well as on the security gaps flagged in the re-evaluation portal. The ministry is taking strong action against those accountable. Responsibility will be determined," a senior official said. Sources indicated that the ministry believes the controversy goes beyond isolated technical failures and may point to deeper procedural and oversight lapses within the system.

▶Denied allegations, P 8

'LACKS OVERALL EXAM REPOSITORY'

- The exam evaluation controversy deepened with **ethical hackers and cybersecurity researchers flagging vulnerabilities in systems** linked to CBSE's digital evaluation infra
- Education ministry officials say weaknesses become more serious because CBSE still lacks a comprehensive digital repository architecture for answer sheets and examination records. Exposes critical gaps in archival and cybersecurity preparedness
- CBSE has been directed to fortify its systems and ensure **all re-evaluation requests are processed through a secure, transparent and closely monitored mechanism**
- Ministry has engaged experts from IITs to plug technological loopholes, **audit re-evaluation portal architecture and strengthen cybersecurity safeguards**

Delhi sweeps top 3 JEE ranks; K'taka topper secures rank 12

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New Delhi: Candidates from IIT Delhi zone swept the first three all India ranks in JEE (Advanced) 2026 results declared on Monday, while capturing five places in the top 10. Shubham Kumar clinched AIR 1 with 330 marks out of 360, while Kabeer Chhillar and Jatin Chahar secured AIR 2 and AIR 3, respectively. The zone's presence in the top 10 extended to Arnav Gautam (AIR 7) and Darsh Sikka (AIR 10). Among female candidates, Arohi Deshpande from the zone emerged as the highest-ranked at AIR 77.

Aryan Ragupathy, who secured All India Rank (AIR) 12, emerged as the Karnataka topper. Manu Parameshwaran, a student of Narayana Olympiad School, Sahakar Nagar, secured AIR 13.

▶When exam's 'sport', P 3

▶Result of self-belief, P 8

DKS cabinet to debut with 10-20 ministers; Delhi talks continue

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Bengaluru/New Delhi: The Congress high command, along with chief minister-designate D K Shivakumar and caretaker chief minister Siddaramaiah, held late-night discussions in New Delhi Sunday to finalise the composition of the new Karnataka cabinet. There are plans to induct between 10 and 20 ministers in the first phase, alongside Shivakumar's swearing-in on Wednesday.

A senior party functionary said the initial list is nearly ready, with some additional names still under consideration. "While 10 names have been finalised, another 10 are being discussed for oath-taking in the first round. The final list may be out Wednesday," he added. The list of probables will be presented before AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi before it is formalised.

Discussions also focused on key organisational and constitutional appointments, including the KPCC president, assembly speaker and legislative council chairman.

Shivakumar is said to be backing Satish Jarkiholi, H K Patil and B K Hariprasad for key organisational and cabinet roles, while Siddaramaiah is believed to be backing Hariprasad for the post of state party chief.

▶Ahinda loyalists, P 4

A DCM HURDLE

- Final cabinet **list to be cleared** by Kharge and Rahul Gandhi
- **DCM posts emerge as a major flashpoint.** KPCC chief, assembly speaker, council chair posts also under discussion
- Shivakumar is **against the idea of deputy chief ministers;** Siddaramaiah backs Zameer Ahmed Khan, G Parameshwara, K J George, M B Patil as DCMs
- **Yathindra Siddaramaiah's induction** under consideration as Cong weighs caste, poll factors

US trade talks: Only 'commas, full stops' left now

New Delhi: India and US have finalised most elements of the legal text of the first tranche of the bilateral trade agreement, with negotiations now focused on "commas and full stops", commerce and industry minister **Piyush Goyal** said Monday, but the treaty, in the works for 15 months, will only be sealed after there is clarity on how the Trump administration deals with the tariff mechanism once the current 10% levy goes away next month.

While US is expected to rely on Section 301, under which India faces two probes, along with several other countries, govt wants to ensure that exports from the country retain tariff advantage compared with rival nations. TNN

▶Commercial LPG prices increased by Rs 42, P 8

▶Greer to visit, P 8

Nearly 51% of K'taka urban women either overweight or obese

Between two National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) carried out in a span of six years, obesity in Karnataka grew at a worrying pace, especially among the women, **reports Jahnavi.** According to the latest NFHS-6, conducted in 2023-24 and released last week, 41.2% of women and 36.4% of men in the state are either overweight or obese, against 30.2% and 30.9%, respectively, during NFHS-5 in 2019-21. Urban women appear to be the most affected, with nearly 51% being overweight or obese. **P4**

▶Women's Net use jumps, P5

If you chop off hands and legs, they'll obey law: HC

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Bengaluru: "Law has lost its teeth because we don't deal with offenders firmly. If you chop off a leg or a hand, then people will, perhaps, realise to comply with law. Because we have a democracy, everybody takes (advantage of it)," the Karnataka HC has said.

Justice R Nataraj made the oral observation while refusing bail to a 23-year-old engineering student, a rape accused who is in judicial custody since April first week. "People are committing crimes casually only because offenders are not dealt with firmly under law. That's why committing an offence has become so easy, unlike in the Middle East," the judge said on Friday.

▶Rejects bail plea, P 4

IN THE COURTS

- **Rape survivor shouldn't be repeatedly asked to appear** for cross examination, directs Supreme Court | **P 5**
- SC rules that **a temporary casual labourer in govt dept is entitled to pensionary benefits on superannuation** even in the absence of regularisation of job | **P 5**

Annamalai may quit BJP, float a 'secular' party

Former Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai is set to part ways with the saffron party. Sources told **TOI** that the former IPS officer is planning to launch a "secular, regional party with a national outlook, perhaps even Dravidian in a redefined way", in the next six to eight months. He is scheduled to meet Union home minister Amit Shah and others in New Delhi Tuesday to "explain the reasons for his exit", **reports Arun Ram. P 8**

Trump claims Lebanon truce as Iran stops talks

As Iran said it would suspend negotiations with the US in protest over Israel's offensive in Lebanon, escalating tensions at a time when Washington and Tehran have been working on the terms of an interim peace deal, US President Donald Trump said Monday that Israel and Hezbollah have agreed to dial back fighting after he held talks with Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and communicated with the Lebanon-militant group through mediators.

FULL COVERAGE: P 14

While Trump said he hadn't heard from Iran that it's suspending talks, and shrugged it off, telling CNBC he did not care if they were over, he also claimed talks were continuing at a rapid pace.

US said it had conducted strikes against Iranian military facilities after Tehran allegedly targeted American assets. Iran, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for attacks on US military installations in the Gulf. AGENCIES

Row over forging signature: TMC expels 2 MLAs

Trinamool Congress on Monday expelled two of its MLAs — Sandipan Saha and Ritabrata Banerjee — for breaking ranks and accusing party bosses of forging legislators' signatures in paperwork linked to election of opposition leader in Bengal assembly. The duo had filed a complaint with the assembly speaker on the alleged forgery. Expulsions will reduce TMC's House strength from 80 to 78 once formalities are done. **P 16**

Bangalore Times

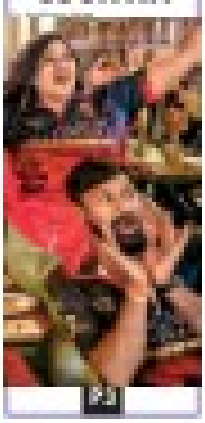
'ONE FELT NICE, WE DID IT TWICE'

EE SALA NU CUP NAMDE

Royal Challengers Bengaluru shelved their crown, beating Gujarat Titans by five wickets to lift a second consecutive IPL title

Behind the triumph as family & friends join the celebrations

RCB'S BIGGEST CROWD? THE WHOLE COUNTRY



WITH HEART, HUMOUR AND HONESTY:

Varun Dhawan on the Bombay Times Lounge

SIDDARAMAIAH TO LEAD? Proposal Is Yet To Receive High Command Approval | Women MLAs Demand Greater Cabinet Representation

Coordination committee plan may revive tussle in Congress

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Bengaluru: In a fresh wrinkle for CM-elect DK Shivakumar, outgoing CM Siddaramaiah has reportedly proposed forming a coordination committee to act as a bridge between Congress and the govt, reopening a debate over an ongoing tussle in Karnataka Congress.

While the proposal is yet to receive approval from the party high command, it places the brass in a delicate position. Siddaramaiah remains

MULTIPLE POWER CENTRES

the party's tallest mass leader in Karnataka and cannot be politically sidelined, but the transition to Shivakumar is intended to be clear and decisive. However, a committee headed by Siddaramaiah could give him a formal role in governance and may fuel perceptions of dual power centres.

MN Patil, a political analyst, said the committee's impact would depend on its powers. "If it is headed by Siddaramaiah and given substantial authority, it could emerge as a parallel decision-making structure. The challenge for Congress will be to ensure clarity on who exercises executive authority," Patil said.

Siddaramaiah had chaired a coordination and monitoring committee when the Congress-JD(S) coalition govt, headed by chief minister HD Kumaraswamy, was at the helm in the state in 2018-19. The coalition govt eventually collapsed in July 2019 after 16 MLAs resigned, reducing it to a minority.

However, JD(S) functionaries, including former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and Kumaraswamy, accused Siddaramaiah of undermining the coalition, allegations he has consistently denied. Congress functionaries close to Siddaramaiah insist the govt fell not because of the former CM or sabotage, but because of defections encouraged by BJP.

Continuation of good work

A senior functionary, who backed the proposal of a coordination committee, said the panel would improve coordination between the party and govt so that Shivakumar continues all the good work of his predecessor. He insisted it was not intended to interfere with the CM's functioning. However, functionaries aligned with Shivakumar privately acknowledge concerns that an ill-defined structure could complicate governance.

Aim should be stability

A senior Congress MLA from Tumakuru opposed the idea, saying the party's priority should be stability after a hard-fought leadership transition. "The focus should be on strengthening the new CM rather than creating additional centres of authority," he said.

Political commentator Vishwas Shetty said the success of any such arrangement will depend entirely on its mandate. "If it functions as a consultative body, it can help manage internal differences. But if it begins exercising oversight over govt decisions, comparisons with the 2018-19 coalition period will be inevitable," he said.

Shetty said the high command may ultimately opt for an informal coordination mechanism or a limited advisory panel, allowing Siddaramaiah to remain politically relevant without diluting Shivakumar's authority.

Chethan Shivakumar

GOING PLACES: Workers at Vidhana Soudha with huge cutouts of functionaries ahead of the swearing-in ceremony

Shivakumar loyalists are hoping Siddaramaiah will be persuaded to accept a Rajya Sabha seat, a move they believe could keep him away from active involvement in state administration

VIJAY NOT IN OATH GUEST LIST

Congress has invited chief ministers of Kerala, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh for DK Shivakumar's swearing-in ceremony but has left Tamil Nadu CM Joseph Vijay off the guest list. Party functionaries overseeing arrangements said the decision to exclude Vijay was taken to avoid crowding and congestion around Vidhana Soudha.

GC Chandrashekhar, Congress state unit working president, said while VD Satheesan, Revanth Reddy and Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu have been invited, RSVPs are awaited. Congress plans to live-stream the event at its office on Queens Road for about 1,000 party workers, and at Congress' office on Race Course Road for another 1,000 office-bearers, to manage crowds.

K'taka's stability story has a distinct OBC signature

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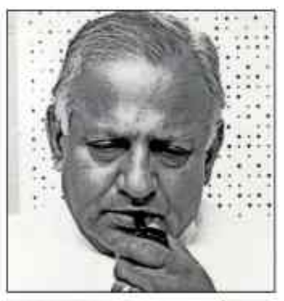
Bengaluru: Siddaramaiah may have resigned midway through his second term, but his exit does little to dent a remarkable political record. The history of CMs in Karnataka shows OBC representatives have presided over some of the state's most stable govts, producing two uninterrupted five-year terms and collectively spending over two decades in office despite accounting for only five CMs.

Although Vokkaligas and Lingayats are socially counted as OBCs, they are considered distinct in the political context because of their dominance among castes with high populations.

While Lingayats lead the record books with nine CMs accounting for more than 27 years in office, five OBC representatives—Devaraj Urs, Siddaramaiah, S Bangarappa (Idiga), M Veerappa Moily (Devadiga) and Dharam Singh, who belonged to the Rajput community classified under Category II-A of Karnataka's OBC list—have collectively governed the state for more than 21 years.

More significantly, two of Karnataka's longest uninterrupted govts were headed by OBC representatives. Urs and Siddaramaiah both completed full five-year terms, a feat achieved only by Lingayat stalwart S Nijalingappa.



MARATHON MAN: Devaraj Urs was the longest-serving CM until his record was broken by Siddaramaiah recently

DK Shivakumar's elevation will strengthen the Vokkaliga community's stint at the top as his tenure will take the community's cumulative time in office to nearly 19 years, should he remain in office for the next two years.

An executive member of the state Vokkaligara Sangha pointed out that Karnataka's first three CMs—KC Reddy, Kengal Hanumanthaih and Kadidal Manjappa—governed only the pre-reorganisation Mysore State.

"Shivakumar is the fifth CM of the state after reorganisation on Nov 1, 1956," he said.

Among post-1956 Vokkaliga CMs, only SM Krishna served for more than four years. HD Deve Gowda was in office for one-year-and-172-days, HD Kumaraswamy accumulated two years and 311 days across two stints, while DV Sadananda Gowda remained in office for 342 days. "The community deserves a greater opportunity to serve the state," the Sangha representative said.

Rhetoric and reality gap

Meanwhile, despite their substantial presence in Karnataka's population and public life, neither Dalits nor Muslims have produced a chief minister.

Dalit organisations say the exclusion reflects a gap between political rhetoric and reality. They point to figures such as Mallikarjun Kharge and G Parameshwara as examples of representatives who possessed experience and stature for the role but never got the opportunity.

Mavalli Shankar, state convener, Dalit Sangarsha Samithi (Ambedkar Vada), said: "Parties, especially Congress, speak about social justice and the Constitution but have failed to execute it in reality," Shankar said.

Women MLAs seek at least two berths

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Bengaluru: Women legislators in Congress are seeking at least two ministerial berths in the new govt, insisting women are underrepresented since the outgoing govt had only Laxmi Hebbalkar in the cabinet despite the party having five women MLAs.

The demand comes amid renewed national discussions on women's representation and gains significance given Karnataka's poor record in this regard.

Hebbalkar said: "Given the debate over 33% reservation, this is the right time for more representation for women. The party high command definitely will induct more than two." Hebbalkar dismissed speculation that she was seeking the deputy chief minister's post.

While Congress supported the Women's Reservation Act passed in 2023, it recently opposed the NDA govt's Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which linked reservation to delimitation and expansion of Lok Sabha seats.

Nayana Motamma, Mudigere MLA, said increased representation will strengthen the party's commitment to women's empowerment. "Such a move will reflect well on the party," she said.

M Roopakala Shashidhar, KGF MLA, and Gulbarga North's Kaneez Fathima, who are both strong contenders for cabinet berths, also backed greater opportunities for women functionaries. Fathima admitted that she had thrown her hat in the ring for a cabinet berth.

File photo

ONE PLUS: Laxmi Hebbalkar (right) was the only woman in Siddaramaiah's cabinet

NO WOMEN, ALL CRY

- Number of women in 224-member assembly – 11 (less than 5%)
- Karnataka is among states with the lowest proportion of women legislators and the lowest among southern states
- Of the 11 women MLAs, five are from Congress
- Most number of women in cabinet — 6 — was between 1992-97

Audio clip suggests Zameer indulged in anti-party work

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: An audio clip on social media purporting anti-party remarks by former minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan has triggered controversy and could stymie his chances of making it to DK Shivakumar's council of ministers.

Khan, who travelled to Delhi along with outgoing CM Siddaramaiah to lobby for a cabinet post, dismissed the allegations, calling the clip "fabricated". He said he would file a complaint with the cyber cell police against those who "created and circulated the clip".

"This is the work of mischief-mongers. No one should believe it," Khan said, adding that he was open to being investigated. However, D Basavaraja, KPCC spokesperson, has written to AICC general secretary KC Venugopal demanding disciplinary action against Zameer.

The audio clip, which has not been independently verified, is said to feature a conversation between Khan and Mohammed Siraj, former vice-president of KPCC's minority wing. The two are purportedly heard discussing the Davanagere South bypoll in Urdu. References are allegedly made to voter mobilisation and that those who turn out should support either the SDPI or an independent candidate. The clip was first circulated Monday through an X account named "kannadacockroacc".

The timing is crucial since Siddaramaiah is said to be backing Khan for a possible deputy CM post if Congress' high command clears the proposal for multiple deputy CMs.

It also follows tensions among minority representatives in the wake of the Davanagere South bypoll. At a press conference, senior Muslim Congressmen, including legislative council chief whip Saleem Ahmed and MLAs Rizwan Arshad, Yasir Ahmed Khan Pathan, and MLC Bilkis Bano, had alleged "internal sabotage" during the bypoll, though no names were cited.

Subsequently, the party suspended MLC K Abdul Jabbar from primary membership and removed Naseer Ahmed from his post as political secretary to the CM. Speculation has since continued over possible disciplinary action against Khan.

Khan, Jabbar and Naseer Ahmed had sought a ticket for a Muslim candidate in Davanagere South. However, after the party fielded Samarth Mallikarjun, they allegedly stayed away from campaigning. However, political observers feel Congress may not keep Zameer out of the Shivakumar-led cabinet, given his influence over minority votes. Greater Bengaluru Authority polls are due later this year, and minorities form a significant chunk of the Bengaluru Urban electorate.

File photo

IN SOUP? Zameer Ahmed Khan

"I trusted Zameer and never imagined he would do something like this. The contents of the audio clip are true. What was once an open secret is now out in public domain with evidence. Anyone who listens to the clip will realise that not only some of our own people, but also members of SDPI, independents and BJP were involved

Samarth Shamanur | DAVANAGERE SOUTH MLA OF CONGRESS

Will new CM's Hindu identity help Cong widen its appeal?

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Bengaluru: Ever since DK Shivakumar was crowned chief minister-elect, an uneasiness has swept through sections of the Karnataka Congress unit over his open embrace of the Hindu faith — a facet of his persona that sets him apart from most other Congress members.

Shivakumar's repeated assertion that he is a "proud Hindu" has fuelled a debate over whether his stint at the top would inject a different political tone to Congress in Karnataka, especially on issues linked to religion and Hindutva.

While his predecessor Siddaramaiah built his political identity around constitutional values, social justice, and the Ahinda coalition, Shivakumar is widely seen as adopting a more accommodative approach towards religious and cultural issues.

On the floor of the legislative assembly, he candidly admitted that he attended RSS shakhas while in school and twice recited the RSS prayer 'Namasthe Sadhavathsale', reinforcing the perception that he is comfortable engaging with groups associated with the Hindutva ecosystem.

But those who have worked closely with him scoffed at suggestions that it would influence his style of governance. "He has time and again said that being a Hindu is his personal belief and not something to be mixed with politics," said a parliamentarian. "He continues to respect all religions. Shivakumar has been, and will be, a true Congressman in his outlook."

ANI

WELCOME: DK Shivakumar at the residence of his advocate and senior Congress MP Abhishek Manu Singhvi in New Delhi on Monday

However, BJP has often highlighted Shivakumar's religious identity to counter Congress' criticism of Hindutva politics. Hours after Shivakumar was elected Congress Legislature Party leader, Gangavathi MLA and former BJP minister Gali Janardhana Reddy remarked: "He is a true Hindu and there is no doubt in it."

Shivakumar's praise for Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's management of the Kumbh Mela and his sharing the stage with Union home minister Amit Shah at the Isha Foundation's Maha Shivaratri celebrations have contrasted with Congress' sharp political opposition to BJP at the national level.

Observers say Shivakumar could seek to convert his broader acceptability among sections of Hindu voters into an electoral advantage, especially since consolidation of Ahinda votes is no longer a given with Siddaramaiah's exit. His well-known faith in religion, astrology and vaastu is also seen as resonating with sections of the urban middle-class and rural communities, areas where he is still working to strengthen his mass appeal.

Whether that personal image translates into political gains for Congress will become clearer as Shivakumar begins shaping his govt.

SHORT TAKES

Politics behind IPL final shift: DKS

Chief minister-designate DK Shivakumar alleged political interference in the decision to move the IPL 2026 final from Bengaluru to Ahmedabad, calling it an "injustice" to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) fans. Congratulating RCB on winning their second consecutive IPL title, Shivakumar said cricket fans in Karnataka were deprived of the opportunity to watch the final in their home city. He revealed Bengaluru had received the necessary approvals to host the match but alleged Gujarat used its "influence" to get the match shifted to Ahmedabad. "The state govt will take steps to ensure that such a situation does not recur in future, though it may take some time," he said.

DKS has got a broken bus: Ashoka

Opposition leader R Ashoka of BJP alleged outgoing CM Siddaramaiah left a financially distressed administration for his successor, DK Shivakumar, comparing the govt to a "broken bus" and "damaged truck". Ashoka claimed Siddaramaiah stepped down under pressure from Congress' high command and accused the party of repeatedly sidelining backward class members. He cited the removal of former CM Devaraj Urs, Veerendra Patil and S Bangarappa, and alleged that Congress could no longer claim to be a champion of the backward classes. Comparing the govt to a "broken bus", Ashoka said only the driver had changed while the vehicle remained the same. He alleged the state was burdened with a debt of Rs 7.6 lakh crore and a fiscal deficit of Rs 94,428 crore, leaving little room for development spending.

BJP protests withdrawal of riot cases

State BJP members, including functionaries and party workers, staged a huge protest in Kalaburagi Monday against the govt's decision to withdraw cases related to the Aland Ladle Mashak Dargah riot incident. They alleged the move was illegal and amounted to vote-bank appeasement. The party demanded that the cases be reopened and warned that protests would be launched across the state if the govt failed to reverse its decision. The state cabinet under Siddaramaiah recently scrapped criminal cases against the accused. BJP said it compromised law enforcement for electoral considerations.

MUSLIM FEDERATION DEMANDS COUNCIL, RAJYA SABHA SEATS

Karnataka Federation of Muslim Organisations urged Congress to provide greater political representation to the community, a demand that comes ahead of the June 18 elections to four Rajya Sabha and seven legislative council seats. The demand comes weeks after the federation released an 'accountability report' evaluating the Congress govt's implementation of promises made to minorities during the 2023 assembly elections and raising concerns over inadequate political representation. The federation pointed out that Muslims constitute an estimated 13% of Karnataka's population but currently have only four representatives in the 75-member legislative council and just one member in the Rajya Sabha from the state. It argued Congress had multiple opportunities to nominate members to the council but did not. "We urge Congress party to allot at least two legislative council seats and one Rajya Sabha seat to Muslims," said Suhail Ahmed Maroor, convener of the federation.

NOMINATIONS OPEN, POLLING ON JUNE 18

Nominations for four Rajya Sabha and seven legislative council seats opened Monday, with polling scheduled for June 18 at Vidhana Soudha. The Rajya Sabha terms of Iranna Kadadi and Narayana Koragappa (BJP), Mallikarjun Kharge (Congress) and former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda (JD-S) end on June 25. The MLC terms of seven members — Govinda Raju, Naseer Ahmed, Tippannappa, BK Hariprasad, N Nagaraju, Prathap Simha Nayak K and Sunil Vallyapur — expire on June 30. Last date for nominations is June 8 and withdrawal June 11. Congress is expected to win three Rajya Sabha and five MLC seats. The strategy of BJP-JD(S) remains unclear.

CASTE REPORT UNSCIENTIFIC: VIJAYENDRA

BJP state president BY Vijayendra accused the Congress govt of meting out "injustice" to backward classes and said credit of "spoiling the Kantharaj report goes to Siddaramaiah". He said the report, commonly called the caste survey, was prepared at an expense of about Rs 400 crore. "The caste survey report, which is currently under discussion, is unscientific and the govt has completely failed to provide justice to the backward classes," he said. He said that by bringing politics into the education sector, the govt worked to sow seeds of hatred and discrimination in the minds of young schoolchildren. He said that for the past three years, the people of the state suffered from failure of the administration and there "is no hope for the future".

At oath event, spotlight on DKS' designer wear, Tihar beard

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Bengaluru: When DK Shivakumar takes oath as chief minister Wednesday, attention will be as much on those he inducts into his council of ministers as on two other personal choices: What he will wear for the historic occasion, and whether he will finally shave off the beard he vowed to keep until becoming CM.

Known as one of the most fashion-conscious politicians in the country, Shivakumar has built a distinctive public image through his carefully curated wardrobe. From crisp white kurtas and silk dhotis to tailored bandhgalas, designer scarves and luxury accessories, his sartorial choices have become an integral part of his political brand. While other politicians have opted for at least an appearance of austerity, Shivakumar has been unafraid to flaunt designer wear.

Sources say Shivakumar is likely to opt for a traditional Karnataka-inspired outfit for the swearing-in ceremony, possibly a pristine white kurta and dhoti ensemble, complemented by one of his trademark scarves or stoles. While he frequently experiments with colours and designer labels, major political milestones have often seen him return to classic white attire associated with simplicity, discipline and Congress party tradition.

File photos

CHIC: DK Shivakumar with his daughter Aishwarya. His fondness for luxury fashion has occasionally sparked controversy

Over the years, Shivakumar has openly embraced premium international brands including Louis Vuitton, Gucci, Prada, Burberry and Chanel. Scarves and stoles remain among his favourite accessories, and his collection of luxury watches and designer sunglasses has long fascinated observers. It has reinforced his image as one who is comfortable blending politics with personal style.

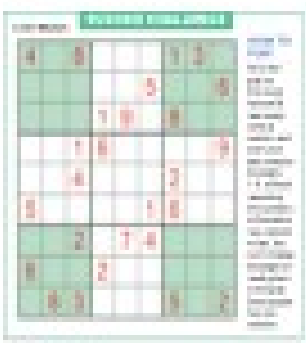
His clothing choices are rarely accidental. Associates say family members and close friends often help him select outfits depending on the occasion — whether a political rally, cultural programme, official meeting or overseas visit. A distinctive feature of his wardrobe is the customised 'DK' monogram embroidered on select shirts and kurtas, adding a personal signature to his attire.

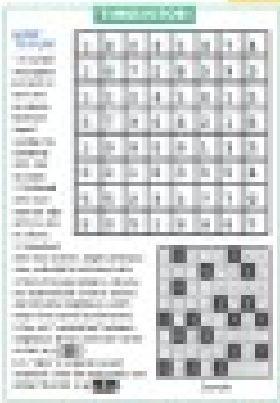
His fondness for luxury fashion has occasionally sparked political controversy. Opposition members have criticised some of his designer accessories, including a scarf that reportedly carried a price tag running into tens of thousands of rupees. BJP functionaries once dubbed him 'Costly Kumar', while rivals questioned the display of luxury amid economic challenges faced by ordinary citizens. Shivakumar has consistently defended his choices, arguing that personal success should not be viewed negatively.

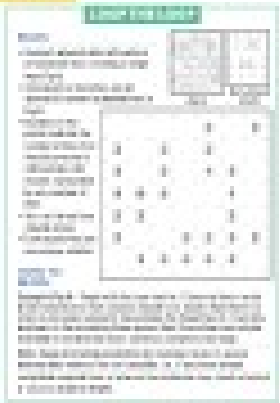
Yet, the bigger question ahead of Wednesday's ceremony concerns his beard. After his 2019 incarceration in Tihar Jail in connection with a money laundering case, Shivakumar had reportedly resolved not to shave until he became CM. Many have suggested the look is becoming of him, but the question remains: Will he get rid of it now?

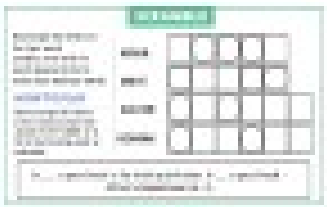
Italian accessory brand makes a stylish India debut at Bengaluru mall

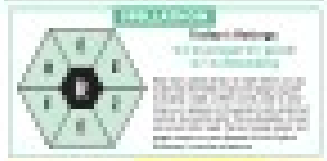
LEISURE

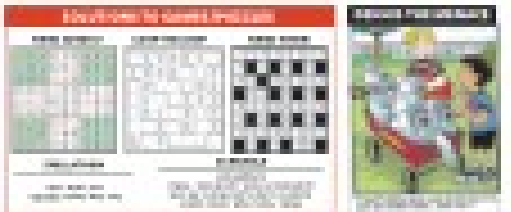












Dhool machale! GBA scores 0/100 on B'ghatta Rd

DAILY MISERY Commuters Say Key Corridor Remains Battered By Metro Work, Repeated Digging & Crumbling Repairs

Vindhya.Pabolu
@timesofindia.com

Pics: Syed Asif

GATEWAY TO EYESORE: Rain has exposed the extent of damage on the crucial south Bengaluru stretch, where potholes, slush and dust now define daily commute

Bengaluru: Bannerghatta Road is not just another city artery; it is the road that houses one of India's most prestigious management institutes — Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB). It is also the gateway to the city's famed national park and zoo, which draws thousands of families and children every week. It connects major educational institutions, hospitals and residential neighbourhoods. Yet, for all its importance, this road in south Bengaluru stands as a monument to civic failure.

Political apathy and bureaucratic complacency have reduced this crucial road to a battered and dust-choked stretch that symbolises everything that is wrong with the city's infrastructure planning and execution.

The nearly 7km stretch between Jayadeva Hospital Junction and beyond Royal Meenakshi Mall is now riddled with potholes, slush-filled craters, waterlogged sections and clogged drains.

Bannerghatta Road carries traffic from JP Nagar, Hulimavu, BTM Layout, Arekere and even Electronics City, serving as a vital connector to the city's core. What was already a difficult commute has become an exhausting daily ordeal, especially in front of IIMB campus, after the recent spell of rain.

On Monday, many netizens highlighted the condition of the road and pointed out how multiple appeals to the brass of Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and Bengaluru South City Corporation (BSCC) to improve road conditions have fallen on deaf ears. With schools reopening, concerns among parents have intensified. Residents said the road's decline is no accident. Frequent digging by Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and ongoing Metro construction activities have left the corridor scarred.

Adding to the frustration is the mystery surrounding the promised road makeover. Authorities had announced a comprehensive upgrade worth nearly Rs 12 crore, raising hopes that the corridor would finally receive the attention it deserved. But commuters say there is little evidence of meaningful progress on the ground.

Patchwork disintegrates

A recent pothole-filling exercise briefly offered hope, but much of the patchwork has already disintegrated following rain. The road is marked by loose gravel and dangerous uneven surfaces. When it rains, motorists struggle to gauge the depth of water-filled craters, often slowing abruptly or swerving at the last moment. Pedestrians have been left to fend for themselves. In many locations, footpaths are damaged, incomplete, or entirely absent, forcing people to walk alongside speeding traffic. Open drains, left exposed in some stretches as a makeshift solution to flooding, have created additional safety risks, particularly during monsoon.

Dust presents another serious concern. Ongoing construction activities and deteriorating road surfaces generate thick clouds of dust that reduce visibility and make daily commuting uncomfortable. Residents complain of respiratory issues, while two-wheeler riders bear the brunt of the pollution.

When contacted, a senior GBA official threw up his hands in despair. "No one knows what the exact plan is and who will repair. Now, with Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B-Smile) proposing to take up concretisation, we are not sure if the road will be restored anytime soon. Things might change if new chief minister DK Shivakumar shows some interest in the road," the official said.

> I regularly travel from Akshaya Nagar to Basavanagudi for college, but travelling on this road is the most exhausting part of my commute. Though officials recently inspected the area and promised repairs, there has been no visible progress. I'm so scared of travelling on this road now that I often take a route that is nearly 3km longer, just to avoid this one
>
> **Anish Kasetty** | 20, BE STUDENT

> Rainy season is fun for many but not for people who have to travel on these broken roads full of craters. The temporary patchwork has been wiped out already. I find travelling on this road extremely uncomfortable, but I have no alternative as it is a key route for both my work and hospital visits
>
> **Amirthalakshmi R** | BILEKEHALLI RESIDENT AND REGULAR COMMUTER

> It was great when the roads were not dug up and widened for Metro construction. Now everything is a mess. There are no proper footpaths on many stretches. Potholes began appearing within a single monsoon. Metro services are expected soon, traffic will only increase. We are managing for now, but the road is in a terrible state. Authorities should fix it before additional Metro-related traffic adds to the problem
>
> **Sri Vidhya Murali** | 45, HOMEMAKER

> I travel regularly from Meenakshi Mall to MG Road to meet clients, and the road's condition is terrible. Nobody wants to start or end their day navigating such roads, especially with heavy traffic. Having lived in Bengaluru for 15 years, we have become used to poor roads, but the situation here is particularly bad. After the recent rains, driving became even more difficult as motorists cannot judge how deep the potholes are. I have seen several two-wheeler riders lose balance while trying to avoid them
>
> **Suresh Kandy** | 51, PHOTOGRAPHER

> I have lived in BTM Layout for years and frequently travel towards JP Nagar and Jigani. It seems like potholes are native to this stretch. My blood pressure rises at the very thought of driving on this road, and just thinking about it makes me feel tired. Adding to the problem is the lack of proper traffic management
>
> **Mumtaz Shafiq** | 39, CYBERSECURITY SPECIALIST

Police crack down on stunts, drunk driving

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: As cricket fans took to the streets after RCB's IPL final victory Saturday night, police launched a massive enforcement drive, targeting stunt riders, traffic violators, and suspicious vehicles to ensure the celebrations remained safe and orderly.

During the special operation, police checked 2,502 two-wheelers, 556 autorickshaws, and 458 four-wheelers. Strict action was taken against violators, with 83 two-wheelers, three autorickshaws, and one four-wheeler seized. Senior police officers, along with personnel of all ranks, were deployed on patrol duty across the city to maintain law and order amid celebrations.

IPL WIN VIGIL

North division police alone seized 75 vehicles, including 71 two-wheelers, three autorickshaws, and one car during the drive conducted across the jurisdictions of 13 police stations. Police said the vehicles were involved in wheeling, triple riding and other illegal activities.

260 drunk-driving cases

According to Anoop A Shetty, deputy commissioner of police (traffic, west) and in-charge joint commissioner of police (traffic), 13,000 vehicles were checked during the overnight drive. Over 260 drunk-driving cases were booked and 290 vehicles seized for violations.

2 workers die in warehouse wall collapse

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: In yet another fatal incident linked to heavy rain, two labourers lost their lives after a 12ft-high warehouse wall collapsed at a construction site in Bommashettyhalli village in Bengaluru North taluk.

The deceased are Dyamanna, 50, a native of Yadgir district, and Babulal, 35, who hailed from Bihar. Both were employed at a warehouse construction project coming up under the jurisdiction of Madanayakanahalli police station.

According to police, seven or eight workers were present at the site Saturday evening. Around 5.30pm, as the workers were preparing to leave for the day, heavy rain lashed the area. A section of the warehouse wall crashed on the workers. Dyamanna and Babulal were trapped under the debris and died on the spot. Four other workers sustained injuries in the incident and were rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

On Friday evening, an auto driver died after the compound wall of Vijayanagar Club collapsed on his vehicle during heavy rain.

ALMANAC (2.6.2026)

Vrishabha Masa 17 Shri Parabhava Nama Samvatsara – Uttarayana – Greeshma Ritu - Tithi: Adhika Jyeshtha Krishna Pratipad h. 16-38 Nakshatra: Jyestha h. 19-09 Yoga: Siddha h. 6-19. 15 Zulhijja Kali Day 1872727

Rahu Kalam 7.30am — 9am

— KL Vidya Shankara Somayaji

Smile, your PU attendance is marked!

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: After a long wait, an AI-based facial recognition attendance system has been launched at pre-university colleges.

Under the initiative named 'Nirantara,' instead of a roll call, lecturers just take a quick group photo of the classroom on their mobile phones to mark attendance. The daily attendance data captured through the system will be integrated and recorded automatically into Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS) software.

This ensures less paperwork, accurate attendance tracking,= and more uninterrupted time for teaching and learning. "To ensure smooth operations, comprehensive digital attendance training was provided to all lecturers across every govt college last week," said Bharat S, director of PU education. This will be followed by training for high school teachers, upper primary, and then primary.

DKS sends message to kids

Meanwhile, schools reopened across the state Monday. Chief minister-designate DK Shivakumar wished all students success. "Students educated in the state have made invaluable contributions at the global level, and the entire world is witness to this. Our students have studied in most of the world's universities and have many accomplishments," he said.

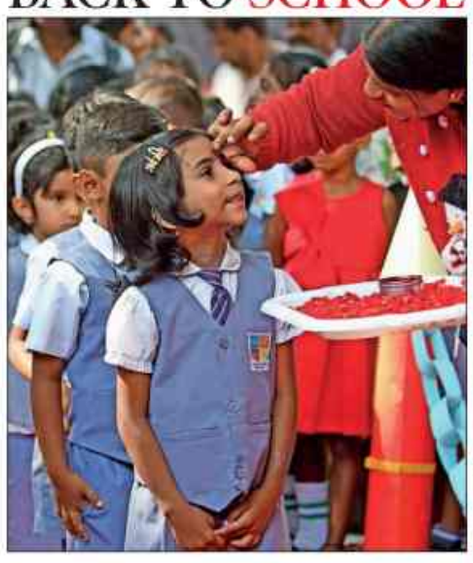
"We have precious human resources. That's why the world sees India through Karnataka. For this very reason, our elders established institutions like IIT, IIM, National Law School, Isro, HAL and other major institutions right here. Children must pursue their education with the aim of carrying these forward," he said. "Govt school children must not lose confidence. Our schools have good teachers. You are just as talented as children studying in private schools," he added.

When asked about calls to provide saffron shawls as an alternative to the hijab, he said, "Whether it should be a saffron shawl or a national flag shawl, let us discuss later."

In a long post on X, Shivakumar also wrote about the teacher who shaped his life — KP Gopalkrishna, founder and chairman of NPS Group of Institutions. "Not just a teacher who taught lessons in classroom, but one who inspired a way of thinking, a way of leading, and a way of serving society," he said, calling himself a proud NPS alumnus.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Pics: Syed Asif



BUSY MORNING: Schools reopened across Karnataka Monday, with Bengaluru witnessing a mix of students cycling to school and parents taking time off work to ensure a safe first day for kids

When exam turns 'sport': City boy secures AIR 12 in JEE Adv

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: For most students, Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Advanced is a gruelling, high-pressure test. For Bengaluru's **Aryan Ragupathy**, who secured All India Rank (AIR) 12 in JEE Advanced 2026 and emerged as the Karnataka topper, it felt more like a sport.

"The test was very competitive and felt like a challenge. So I just kept studying and taking tests, finishing one after the other," said Aryan, who hopes to pursue computer science engineering at IIT Bombay.

A sports enthusiast, Aryan plays cricket almost every day and did not give up watching his favourite shows during the two years of JEE preparation.

Rather than worrying about results, he focused on the next task at hand. "I just tried to take it one step at a time — the next chapter to learn, the next thing to do. Thinking too much about the future only adds pressure," he said.

Aryan studied at Sri Aurobindo Memorial School until class 5 before moving to BGS National Public School for classes 6 to 10. He later joined an Allen coaching centre. Engineering, he said, was a natural choice. "I was always curious about physics and how things work." The decision was also influenced by family. His father is a mechanical engineer, his mother a civil engineer and his brother a computer science engineer.

Confident after a strong performance in JEE Main, Aryan chose not to write CET, ComedK or other engineering entrance exams. "I felt the colleges I could get through those exams were not as promising as the ones I could get through JEE."

His competitive streak began much earlier. Aryan started Olympiad coaching in Class 6 and qualified for multiple stages of national-level science and mathematics Olympiads. "Olympiads helped build my foundation and also gave me a feel of how competitive things can get. I like challenges," he said.

Despite securing one of the country's top ranks, Aryan admits he has not even explored his dream campus. "I haven't even seen a single picture of IIT Bombay yet. I didn't think that far."

He focused on understanding concepts

For **Manu Parameshwaran** (AIR 13), a student of Narayana Olympiad School, Sahakar Nagar, his interest in mathematics and science from an early age pushed him towards engineering. "I was interested in maths and science from a young age, so I decided engineering would be the best choice," said Manu, who scored 88.6% in the class 12 CBSE exams.

"I usually focus on solving problems and understanding concepts rather than memorising formulas and solutions," he said. "The curriculum was very structured and covered topics multiple times. The faculty were also very helpful." The son of an engineer and a music teacher, he completed class 10 at Greenwood High.

Online pursuit of marriage with 'doc' costs woman ₹23L

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: An online search for a life partner ended in heartbreak and the loss of Rs 23.5 lakh for a 42-year-old woman, who fell victim to an elaborate scam.

Roopa (name changed), a resident of Mathikere, said in her complaint that she had registered on a matrimony platform and was contacted by a profile in the name of Dr Vihan Mishra, who claimed to be a surgeon working in Scotland. During their weeks of conversations, he expressed interest in marriage and learnt about her family, profession, and personal life. The fraudster told her that he would travel to India on May 4, 2026 to meet her and take their relationship forward. He later told her that he arrived in Delhi but officials at the airport detained him as he was a British citizen.

The scam took a dramatic turn when a woman identifying herself as Neha Rani called the complainant, claiming to be an immigration officer. She told Roopa that Mishra was carrying gold and a large sum of money that required clearance and conversion of British currency into Indian rupee.

The fraudsters convinced her to transfer money to multiple bank accounts for various purported charges, including registration, clearance, and processing fees.

Believing she was helping her future husband resolve legal formalities, the woman transferred a total of Rs 23.5 lakh from her two bank accounts between May 4 and 6. Only later did she realise that the purported groom had vanished and that the entire relationship had been a carefully planned fraud. Police said investigation is in progress.

MAN ATTACKS IN-LAWS WITH MACHETE

Bengaluru: A family dispute took a violent turn when a man allegedly stormed into an apartment complex armed with a machete and attacked his in-laws in broad daylight.

According to the complaint filed by Syed Ahmed, 54, the incident occurred on May 28 amid an ongoing legal battle involving his daughter, Syeda Neha, and her estranged husband, Farhan Mubarak, a resident of RT Nagar. Ahmed, an employee with the public works dept residing at the BDA apartment in Kumbalagodu, said Mubarak married his elder daughter, Neha, six years ago, and they have a son. However, marital differences developed between the couple, following which Neha left with her son to her parents' house. Ahmed said his daughter, currently working in Mumbai, filed a divorce case against Mubarak. Legal proceedings between the couple are reportedly pending before a court.

On May 28, around 6pm, Ahmed was playing with his grandson in a nearby park when Mubarak arrived at his residence. He allegedly dragged his wife, Nasreena Bhanu, 50, out of the house and assaulted her on the street with a machete. Hearing the commotion, Ahmed attempted to rescue his wife. Mubarak then allegedly struck him as well, on the head and right hand, with the machete. TNN

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Paint to cool roof: PHCs reduce indoor heat

Hamsaveni.N@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: In a city increasingly grappling with rising temperatures and urban heat stress, an initiative aimed at making govt healthcare spaces cooler and more comfortable has shown promising results. Two primary health centres (PHCs) in north Bengaluru — Agrahara and Amruthahalli — recorded a drop of more than 3°C in indoor temperatures after reflective "cool roof" paint was applied to their rooftops.

The pilot was undertaken by Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC), especially in public buildings catering to vulnerable groups, including elderly patients, pregnant women, and children.

According to findings from the pilot study, the reflective-albedo coating significantly reduced heat absorption by the buildings. At Agrahara PHC, roof surface temperatures dropped by nearly 9°C, from 48°C to 39°C, after the painting. Officials noted that indoor temperatures, which earlier acted as "heat traps" and remained warmer than outdoor conditions, were brought down substantially after the coating was applied. The indoor cooling impact was measured at 3.4°C in Agrahara and 3.2°C in Amruthahalli.

ENCOURAGING PILOT RESULTS

- Cool-roof paint at two Bengaluru PHCs lowered indoor temperatures by over 3°C, improving comfort for patients and staff
- At Agrahara PHC, roof temperatures fell nearly 9°C, from 48°C to 39°C, after the reflective coating was applied
- BNCC plans to expand the initiative to about 50 more PHCs and govt buildings, backed by Rs 2-crore allocation
- The coating also offers waterproofing and damp-proofing benefits, making it useful through the year, said officials

> This method of roof cooling is not something new and very innovative; we all are aware of it. It is just that we never started implementing it. After some time, even private building owners can use this paint and skip ACs in future
>
> **Pommala Sunil Kumar** | COMMISSIONER, BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

As part of the pilot, around 80 litres of reflective paint was used at the Agrahara PHC, covering nearly 1,442sqft of roof area, while 120 litres were used at Amruthahalli across 3,681sqft, including parapet walls. Officials said the paint used was a polyurethane-based waterproof reflective coating costing approximately Rs 575 per kg, while labour charges for applying two coats stood at Rs 35 per sqft.

Encouraged by the results, authorities are now considering expanding the initiative to nearly 50 additional PHCs and govt buildings.

According to the BNCC commissioner, Pommala Sunil Kumar, Rs 2 crore was set aside for this initiative from the corporation's budget, and the technical support for the initiative was provided by C40 Cities.

During implementation, engineers encountered rough roof surfaces, cement crumbles, cracks and seepage issues, which were repaired and smoothened before the cooling paint was applied. Officials also said doctors and staff at the PHCs have reported improved comfort levels after the intervention, while patients found waiting areas more breathable during peak summer afternoons.

Speaking about the initiative, Chandrashekar, executive engineer at BNCC, said, "This painting works in two ways. During summer, it reduces the temperature by 3°C. During rainy season, it acts as a leak-proof and damp-proof protection. This paint coating is effective in summer, winter, and rainy seasons."

FIRECRACKERS, BIKE RALLIES AND CHANTS

India celebrates RCB

VIZAG

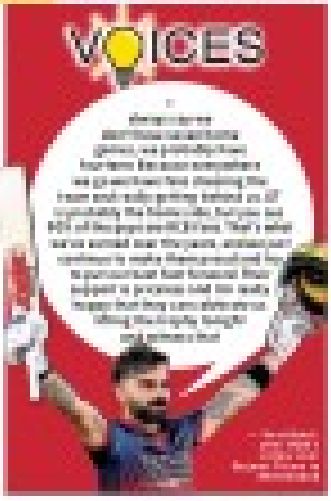
HYDERABAD

BENGALURU

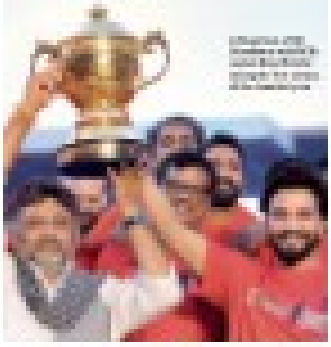
PUNE

AHMEDABAD

CHENNAI


VOICES

'We have been wronged'



He brought the trophy, she brought the smile

QUICK TAKE

Survey: Obesity growth in K'taka sharper in women

Doctors Cite Urban Lifestyle & Easy Access to Junk Food

Jahnavi@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Despite growing fitness culture, obesity continues to rise — much more among women — across Karnataka, according to National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-6 report, released recently.

The survey, conducted in 2023-24, found that 41.2% of women and 36.4% of men in Karnataka (out of a sample size of 30,260 persons) are either overweight or obese. This marks a sharp increase from the 2019-21 survey findings, when 30.2% of women and 30.9% of men fell into the same category. Urban women appear to be the most affected, with nearly 51% classified as overweight or obese.

Doctors **TOI** spoke to attributed the trend largely to urban lifestyles marked by sedentary habits, unhealthy diets, easy access to junk food and sugary drinks through quick-commerce platforms, and increased alcohol consumption.

Highlighting factors that particularly affect women, Dr KS Harshith, consultant, internal medicine, Aster RV Hospital, said research has shown a steady rise in obesity among women living in urban India over the past two decades.

"Many females live in places where they would not be safe to pursue outdoor physical activity. Younger females may experience restrictions on their ability to exercise outdoors due to numerous societal factors," he said.

According to Dr Nidhin Mohan, senior consultant, general medicine, Narayana Health City, obesity among women is also linked to polyendocrine metabolic ovarian syndrome (PMOS).

"Women also continue to shoulder a disproportionate share of household responsibilities in addition to their professional commitments. This leaves them with less time to focus on their own health and fitness," he said.

Doctors also point to social perceptions around body weight. In many households, particularly among older generations, weight loss is sometimes incorrectly viewed as a sign of poor health. They note that south Indians may have a genetic predisposition towards obesity, especially abdominal obesity, although genetics alone cannot explain the sharp rise seen in recent years.

The increase comes at a time when Bengaluru has witnessed a growing fitness culture, with more gyms, running groups and wellness communities than before. However, doctors say the proportion of people who consistently follow healthy diets and exercise routines remains relatively small.

"Most people today are aware that they need to exercise regularly and eat healthy food, but awareness alone is not enough," Dr Mohan pointed out.

"What many of my patients tell me is that they simply do not have the time. After a long day at work and spending hours commuting in traffic, they return home exhausted. The last thing they feel capable of doing is spending another 30-45 minutes exercising," he added.

Dr Harshith said while awareness about obesity has improved, many people still fail to recognise that they are overweight.

"As obesity becomes more common, some people see gradual weight gain as normal and do not recognise the associated health risks until they develop conditions such as diabetes, hypertension or joint problems," he said.

For prevention, doctors stress that small but consistent lifestyle changes can make a significant difference.

"Even in a fast-paced city like Bengaluru, maintaining a healthy weight is achievable through small but consistent lifestyle changes," said Dr Sanjeev Vikram Shetty, consultant, minimal access GI, bariatric & general surgeon, Gleneagles BGS Hospital (Kengeri).

He recommended regular physical activity, reducing prolonged sitting, eating balanced home-cooked meals rich in fruits, vegetables, protein and fibre, limiting sugary drinks and processed foods, and prioritising sleep, hydration and stress management for long-term weight control.

> Women continue to shoulder a disproportionate share of household responsibilities in addition to their professional commitments. This leaves them with less time to focus on their own health and fitness
> - Dr Nidhin Mohan | NARAYANA HEALTH CITY

DIABETES CASES TOO ON RISE

The other concerning factor is that diabetes has also gone up in Karnataka with 22.3% of women (up from 14% in the previous survey) and 26.1% men (up from 15.6%) living with high or very high levels of blood sugar, or taking medicine to control their blood sugar levels.

Doctors attribute this rise in diabetes as a partial contributor to weight gain in the state.

HSR Layout project faces heat over plan to cut 180 trees

Bengaluru: A proposal to remove 184 trees from Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) complex in HSR Layout for redevelopment and construction of a new shopping complex has sparked criticism from residents and environmental activists, who accused the authorities of prioritising construction over conservation.

SHOPPING COMPLEX

GBA forest department recently issued a public notice inviting objections and suggestions on the proposed tree felling. According to the notice, the trees are located within HSR Layout's BDA complex and are proposed to be removed for the shopping complex under a public-private partnership (PPP) model. The notice said there are 184 trees within the project area and citizens can submit objections within 10 days.

Activists argued that many of the trees are decades old and form a green buffer in one of the city's rapidly urbanising neighbourhoods. They said mature trees provide ecological benefits that cannot be easily replaced through compensatory plantation drives.

Critics have also questioned why the authorities are considering large-scale tree removal for a commercial redevelopment project when Bengaluru continues to grapple with rising temperatures, declining tree cover and heat island effects. TNN

HC: Family court jurisdiction can't extend to solve civil suit

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Justice Manmadha Rao said there is a distinction between a matrimonial case seeking preservation or dissolution of a marriage and a suit over an estate

Bengaluru: The jurisdiction of a family court cannot extend to resolve a civil suit, the high court has observed.

Extending the family court's jurisdiction to every title suit involving a challenge to a pedigree would potentially dilute the specialised focus of that forum and overlap with the settled functions of the civil court under Specific Relief Act, Justice K Manmadha Rao noted in his April 28 order while quashing an order passed by a family court of Bengaluru.

A woman and her two children challenged the order of the family court, passed on Feb 25, 2020, holding that it has jurisdiction to entertain the suit. Originally, one Parvathamma, wife of late JP Narayana Swamy, filed the suit in 2017, seeking a direction that the petitioner woman in the present case is not the legally wedded wife of her husband (Narayana Swamy), and the two children are not his.

In addition, she sought a permanent injunction restraining the petitioners from claiming any rights in the estate of the deceased man and from asserting themselves as his wife and children. However, when the proceedings were pending, Parvathamma died on Feb 24, 2020. Thereafter, two of her relatives joined the litigation in her place. In their challenge to the Feb 25, 2020 order, the woman and her two children argued that the family court lacked jurisdiction to try a suit pertaining to a property dispute.

Justice Manmadha Rao noted that the Family Courts Act is a specialised statute designed to provide a simplified, conciliation-based forum for family-related grievances, and the same cannot be expanded to resolve civil suits. The judge also pointed out that the original plaintiff, Parvathamma and her husband Narayana Swamy are no more and hence the validity of the marriage of the petitioner woman cannot now be looked into in such a scenario.

In the present instance, the challenge is not aimed at resolving a marital friction between spouses, but rather at determining the status of individuals to facilitate claims over the estate of Narayana Swamy. Consequently, the dispute takes on the character of a complex civil litigation, which is traditionally best suited for the adjudication of a civil court, the judge added.

A nuanced distinction must be drawn between a matrimonial case seeking the preservation or dissolution of a marriage and a suit for declaration of legal character intended to settle rights over an estate, Justice Rao observed while quashing the order passed by the family court.

However, liberty has been granted to the two respondents to file a fresh suit, if at all they have any grievance before the competent civil court.

A-I Express launches direct Phuket flights

Bengaluru: After IndiGo and Akasa Air, Air India Express Monday launched a direct flight to Phuket in Thailand from Bengaluru.

The Phuket connection will be weekend centric – a Boeing 737-8 Max aircraft will fly out of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) at 10:35am Mondays and Saturdays, reaching Phuket by 3:50pm. On Fridays, the flight will take off at 11.25am and Sundays, 11:15am, with a single-direction journey taking 3 hours and 45 minutes. This is Air India Express's second destination in Thailand after its daily Bengaluru-Bangkok service, which was introduced in Oct last year.

Pune flight cancelled

After the cancellation of an Air India Express flight to Pune, several passengers had to alter their travel plans Monday morning.

Flight AI 9806, scheduled to take off from Bengaluru at 5.35pm and reach Pune at 7.20pm, was cancelled. However, the schedule became much more complicated as it was also a connecting flight for passengers from across the country flying to Pune.

Several passengers said Bengaluru was a transit point in their journey to Pune from their respective stations. A few had already reached their source airports. "Passengers are currently left waiting at the airport with limited information on alternate arrangements and timelines," Shipra Singh, a passenger travelling between Kochi and Pune, posted on X.

The airline later clarified the flight was cancelled due to operational reasons and offered passengers either a refund or a one-time flight change within seven days. TNN

Ramaiah Group to start new varsity

Bengaluru: Ramaiah Group is launching a new greenfield deemed-to-be university, offering industry-embedded engineering curriculum and translational research.

Called Ramaiah Institute of Science and Management (RISM), the campus will offer engineering in computer science and artificial intelligence, aerospace engineering and electrical sciences to begin with. The transit campus will begin operations in Aug and the main campus is expected to be fully operational in Sept 2028 in the Information Technology Investment Region near Devanahalli.

The varsity will have University at Albany, State University of New York, as the knowledge partner, helping the institution create the curriculum. MR Jayaram, chairman of Gokula Education Foundation that runs Ramaiah institutions, said the varsity will prepare students for global knowledge environments rather than solely relying on traditional teaching models. "We are not building a centre for teaching, but a centre for learning," he said.

Admissions will be merit-based and depend on the ranks of Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) and Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka (ComedK). Applications will open after official launch of the university on June 4. The fee ranges from Rs 10-12 lakh per annum. Merit-based scholarships will be given to students. TNN

Pupils get saffron shawls

Right-wing activists distributed saffron shawls to college students in Hubballi Monday following govt's decision permitting the wearing of hijab in schools and colleges. The activists visited several schools and colleges across the city and handed out saffron shawls to students. TNN

Prosecutor caught with ₹5,000 bribe

Bengaluru: Lokayukta police trapped and arrested a public prosecutor (PP) after she accepted a bribe of Rs 5,000 from a man in her office at the City Civil and Sessions Court Monday afternoon.

The accused PP is Savitha Naveen Patil, 55, serving in CCH-54 court.

According to Lokayukta officials, a 40-year-old Banashankari resident approached them alleging the PP had demanded a bribe for submitting objections in a rape case registered at Chennammanakere Achukattu police station in the last week of April. The complainant told police his wife was raped by an acquaintance.

Following verification of the bribery complaint Lokayukta officials registered a case under Prevention of Corruption Act and trapped Savitha while accepting the money. TNN

Viral video claims 30-minute traffic halt for governor's convoy; police deny charge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: A viral video showing a frustrated motorist sitting on a busy road and confronting traffic police over an alleged prolonged halt for the governor's convoy has reignited the debate over VIP movement and public inconvenience in Bengaluru.

The incident, which occurred on Old Airport Road amid ongoing underpass construction work, triggered outrage on social media after claims surfaced that commuters, including a pregnant woman, had been stranded for nearly 30 minutes. However, a police inquiry disputed several of the allegations.

The controversy began after X user @Prajvalprince posted a video Monday afternoon claiming that traffic on Old Airport Road had stopped for nearly 30 minutes for the governor's convoy to pass. "A man travelling with his pregnant wife was stuck in the gridlock. When will public convenience matter as much as VIP convenience?" the post read.

The video showed a man identified as Mohid, a resident of Shantinagar, sitting on a zebra crossing near ISRO Junction and arguing with traffic police personnel. He alleged that his vehicle had been stopped even though the governor had not yet departed from HAL Airport.

TOI

HEATED EXCHANGE

While the video did not specify where Mohid was headed, social media users and unverified reports claimed he was travelling with his pregnant wife to a hospital and that no alternative route was available.

As the viral video snowballed into a controversy, traffic police initiated an inquiry. A senior police officer said the assistant commissioner of police (traffic-east) examined CCTV footage covering the stretch from HAL Airport to the protest location. "The incident occurred around 1.30pm Sunday within the limits of Jeevan Bima Nagar traffic police station. CCTV footage was verified and it does not indicate that vehicles were stopped for 30 minutes," the officer said.

"Only one side of traffic movement was stopped and the maximum halt was seven to eight minutes. Police personnel at the spot checked Mohid's vehicle and did not find any pregnant woman inside," sources said.

Police said Mohid and his wife were summoned by the ACP and their statements were recorded.

"The claims made in the social media post are not entirely accurate. On the same day, Mohid also submitted an apology for causing disruption to police duty," a senior officer said.

Deputy commissioner of police (traffic-east) Sahil Bagla reiterated there was no pregnant woman in the vehicle. TOI's attempts to obtain comments from the governor's office did not elicit a response.

Siddaramaiah also lobbying for inclusion of Ahinda loyalists

▶ Continued from page 1

Siddaramaiah is also lobbying for the inclusion of his loyalists from the Ahinda bloc in the cabinet, though other netas indicated no more than 10 of his nominees are likely to be accommodated.

Jarkiholi is reportedly seeking both a cabinet berth and an organisational role.

The issue of deputy chief minister (DCM) posts has emerged as a major bone of contention within Congress ranks. Siddaramaiah is said to be pitching for DCM positions for G Parameshwara, B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, K J George and M B Patil. However, Shivakumar is reportedly against the idea of DCMs, arguing it could create parallel power centres and generate unnecessary political controversy.

The high command is also weighing inclusion of Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra in the cabinet. While both state and national-level netas in the party are keen to ensure this representation to safeguard the Kuruba vote base in Karnataka, Siddaramaiah is not pushing his case. His concern being that such a move could be interpreted as nepotism.

IANS

SET FOR NEW INNINGS

"Last time I visited the high command, Rahul Gandhi said my interest will be taken care of, and that I would be inducted into the cabinet. So, I'm hopeful. Whatever be the portfolio, I'll be happy," Yathindra said, adding he wasn't harbouring any DCM ambitions.

The Congress leadership also reviewed preparations for Rajya Sabha and legislative council elections scheduled for June 18. Based on its current strength in the assembly, the party is projected to win three of the four RS seats and five of the seven MLC seats.

Meanwhile, in Bengaluru, members of Dalit community staged a protest outsideKPCC office, urging the leadership to appoint a Dalit leader as DCM. Protesters demanded that senior leaders G Parameshwara, KH Muniyappa and HC Mahadevappa be considered for this position. The demonstration was led by Dalit leader K Venkataswamy.

Separately, Congress workers in Halkarti village of Chittapur taluk performed special prayers at the Veerabhadreshwara temple, seeking appointment of minister Priyank Kharge as DCM.

In Bengaluru, supporters of Shantinagar MLA and BDA chairman NA Haris conducted rituals at the Adishakti temple at GBA headquarters, seeking either a DCM post or a cabinet berth for him. As part of the rituals, 108 coconuts were broken.

Judge rejects bail plea

▶ Continued from page 1

During hearing, the petitioner's counsel submitted that the petitioner has been in jail for almost two months though he did not commit any offence, allegedly three years ago.

"If you eat salt, you got to drink water. Let him stay for another 4-5 days. Let him get used to prison. Who knows if you are punished, you may have to go back (to jail)," the judge said, denying bail for now. He ordered a notice to the state govt and posted the matter to June 8.

Police submitted to the court that the petitioner and the complainant were classmates at an engineering college in Manipal.

B'luru tourist swept away off Udupi beach

A tourist from Bengaluru died after being swept into the sea by a large wave while visiting Kodi Bengre Delta Beach near Malpe, Udupi.

The victim is S Kushal, 31. Monica, his wife, told police she, Kushal and their child were in Udupi on a three-day vacation. On May 30, Kushal was washing his feet in the seawater when a large wave hit him, causing him to lose balance and fall into the sea. He was pulled out of the water and rushed to a hospital in Manipal for treatment. He passed away Sunday. TNN

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(15th May 1954 - 02nd June 2020)
In Profound Memory of our beloved
SMT. DANDA USHA KRISHNAMURTHY

"na jaayate mriyate vaa kadaachin naayam bhuthva bhavithaa na bhooyah
ajo nithyah saasvato yam puraano na hanyate hanyamaane sareere"
The spirit is neither born nor does it die at any time. It does not come into being or cease to exist. It is unborn, eternal, permanent, and primeval. The spirit is not destroyed when the body is destroyed. - Bhagavad Gita (2:20)

You have only slipped into the next room nothing has changed. Everything remains exactly as it was, you are you I am I and the old life that we lived so fondly together is untouched unchanged. Whatever we were to each other that we are still. We will call you by the old familiar name and will always do it in the easy way we used to do

Fondly remembered and deeply missed by
Husband D N Krishna Murthy, Children Karthik and Vivek, Daughters In Law Sneha and Sushma and Grand Children Samyuktha, Saniha, Ruthvika
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OBITUARY
SAD DEMISE
G S PRAMILA SAMUEL
Wife of Late R P Samuel
Born: 24.02.1942 – To Heavenly abode: 31.05.2026
Retired Teacher, Mentor, Guide, & former Pastorate Committee Member, former Hudson Memorial Church Women's fellowship Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, and in several other leadership roles within the HMC.
"Well done, good and faithful servant... Enter into the joy of your master." Matthew 25:21
Final respects at residence from 4:00 PM on Monday, 01/06/2026.
40/3, 14th Cross, 4th Main, Chinnayanapalya, Adugodi, Bengaluru - 560030
The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, 02/06/2026, 11:30AM (Gate no. 2)
Loved and missed by
Naresh Paul, Harrison Paul, Harry Thomas, Christina Champaka, Samson Sudhir & entire family members.

REMEMBRANCES
FIFTH YEAR REMEMBRANCE
Mrs. SUMATHI K S
Spl. Asst., Canara Bank, Kilpauk
17.06.1963 - 02.06.2021
Remembered by
Shanthakumar (Husband), Anu & Vinu (Daughters), Ujjwal (son- in- law), Cookie (Her lovable pet) Relatives & Friends

SAD DEMISE
Known for his quick wit, generous heart and ability to make every gathering brighter, Rohan will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by his wife, Avanti (Tuli), children - Arjun, Ritika & Richa, sisters - Renu & Roma, Family & Friends.
Rohan Mathai Thomas
June 5, 1960 - June 1, 2026

OBITUARY
SAD DEMISE
IN LOVING MEMORY
SHAKUNTALA MANOHAR MENDA
Affectionately known as Shaku
Wife of Late Shri Manohar Menda
10.10.1946 – 01.06.2026
Rest in Peace A life well lived, a heart full of love, and a soul that will forever be remembered.
The cremation will take place on 2nd June at Hebbal Crematorium, between 3:00 and 4:00 pm.
A doting Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Friend, Philosopher and Guide. You will be missed by one and all.
Vimal, Madhu, Nikhil, Arla, Rajesh, Anjali, Aashna, Nirav, Pratik, Deepti, Menda & Khatwani Family Relatives, Friends & staff
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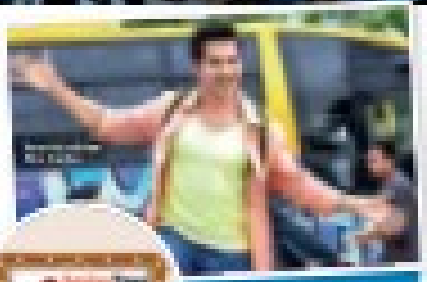
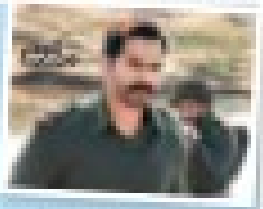
Sometimes God brings you down to lift you up again, says Varun Dhawan





THEATRE REVIEWS

A theatrical retelling that leaves a lasting impact

Dua Lipa and Callum Turner are married

TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

WANGCHUK SAYS CENTRAL GOVT OMITTED KEY POINTS FROM LADAKH TALKS DRAFT, WARNS OF HUNGER STRIKE

ATTACK ON KALYAN AND ABHISHEK 'AUTHORITARIAN CONDUCT', SAYS MAMATA; ALLEGES HOSPITALS TOLD NOT TO TREAT THEM

Edu min tells panel about vulnerabilities of pen-and-paper exams

Kumar.Rakesh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Education ministry told a parliamentary committee Monday that "many hands and many cities" present many chances to leak question papers in pen-and-paper exams, while Computer-Based Test (CBT) takes out this "weakest link" and will serve as the foundation for computer-adaptive testing (CAT) along the lines of CRE and GMAT.

In a presentation before the parliamentary panel on education headed by **Digvijaya Singh** of Congress, it was said that National Testing Agency (NTA) has demonstrated that CBT can be administered on scale by successfully conducting JEE in multiple sessions since 2019, people in the know said.

Singh's remarks calling upon NTA to ensure a mishap-free re-NEET on June 21 while speaking of trust in PM Narendra Modi and the system triggered a row as Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh, who is not a panel member, asserted that his senior colleague had not given any clean chit to Modi.

Singh told **TOI** that he is rule-bound not to disclose details of the parliamentary panel meeting. The committee will do its best to present its report before June 21, when his term in Rajya Sabha ends, he added. "As Modi himself is monitoring the issue, we are hopeful that the re-exam will be conducted fairly. If there is a leak again, it is his (PM's) responsibility," he said.

Officials of NTA and education and health ministries have appeared before the committee amid furore over the irregularities. Ministry noted that CBT is exposed to cyber-security and infrastructure challenges but emphasised that paper-based exams depend on a vast physical supply chain involving printing presses, packers, transport, etc.,, creating multiple points of vulnerability.

Share of Indian women using Net doubled in 4 years: Survey

Girls' School Attendance Also Improves

Manash.Gohain
@timesofindia.com

Pic for representation

QUIET TRANSFORMATION

New Delhi: Between NFHS-5 (2019-21) and NFHS-6 (2023-24), share of women who have ever used the internet almost doubled from 33.3% to 64.3%, preschool attendance among children aged two to four years rose from 40.1% to 47% and proportion of women with 10 or more years of schooling climbed from 41% to 46.4%.

The latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS) suggests India is witnessing a quiet but significant transformation in both education and digital access for girls/women. Yet beneath the national gains, survey reveals sharp inequalities that continue to shape educational opportunities across India, with female school attendance among those aged six years and above standing at 84.3% in urban India compared to 69.2% in rural areas.

NFHS-6 survey, conducted in 2023-24, shows that 73.7% of females aged six years and above had attended school, up from 71.8% in NFHS-5. Findings point towards gradual improvements in access to schooling, though regional and urban-rural disparities remain substantial.

One of the biggest gains was recorded in secondary-level educational attainment among women – with proportion of women aged 15-49 with 10 or more years of schooling up to 46.4% in NFHS-6. Among men, figure rose from 50.2% to 54.6%, indicating a broader expansion in educational attainment across genders.

Preschool attendance among kids aged 2-4 years increasing from 40.1% to 47% reflects growing participation in anganwadi-linked pre-primary systems and foundational learning programmes. Urban preschool attendance stood at 50%, while rural reached 46%.

As for digital access, while percentage of women who had ever used internet nearly doubled to 64.3% in NFHS-6, the figure increased from 51.2% to 80.5% among men. But, there was a sharp divide between urban and rural areas. While 77.3% of urban women reported internet usage, figure dropped to 58.6% in rural areas. Mobile phone access showed a similar pattern. Nationally, 63.6% of women reported having a mobile phone that they used, but figure dropped to 57.4% in rural India, compared to 77.6% in urban areas.

Findings assume significance at a time when govts are increasingly relying on digital platforms for classroom teaching, skilling, online learning, scholarship delivery and welfare services linked to education. Survey indicates that while India is rapidly becoming digitally connected, equitable access to devices, connectivity and digital literacy may now emerge as next major education policy challenge.

NFHS-6 findings also reflect broader demographic shifts that could shape the future education system. Share of the population below 15 years of age declined from 26.5% in NFHS-5 to 25.5%, while the population below five years fell marginally from 8.2% to 8%, trends that experts say could eventually influence future school enrolment patterns.

HACK OF THE DAY — **STACK SIMILAR PHOTOS BEFORE CLEANING GALLERY**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you reduce gallery clutter from repeated selfies, burst shots, screenshots, and near-identical photos without losing track of them

WHAT TO DO: Turn on Google Photos photo stacks so similar photos are grouped together in your main view

STEPS:

1. **Open** Google Photos
2. **Go to** the Photos view
3. **Open** the photo stacks or organise option if shown
4. **Turn on** Stack similar photos
5. **Review** each stack before deleting anything permanently

CAREFUL: Stacking does not save storage by itself. It helps you review similar photos faster before deciding what to delete

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

SCAN FOR MORE

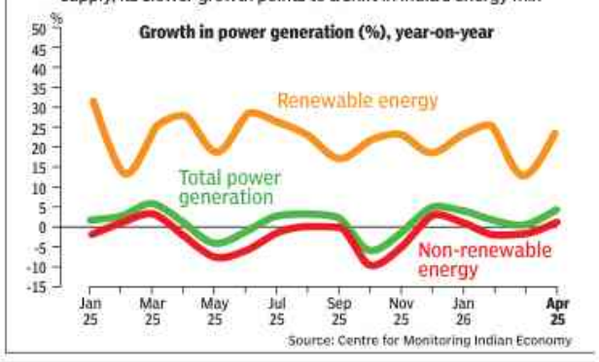
Bellatrix partners with Korean co for EO sat

South Korean space AI company TelePIX has signed an MoU with Bengaluru-based space propulsion firm Bellatrix Aerospace to jointly develop a next-generation Earth observation (EO) satellite designed to operate in Very Low Earth Orbit, with a technology demonstration mission targeted for launch in 2028. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

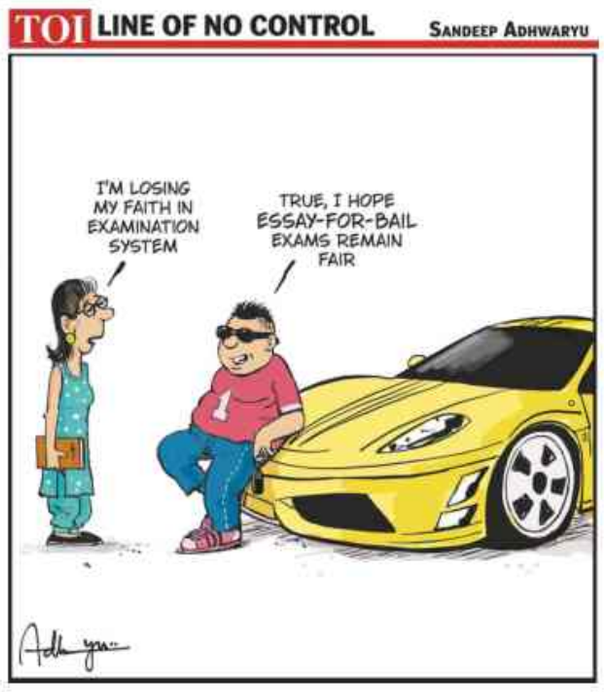
How renewables are becoming the star of India's power story

April saw a surge in electricity output, with green energy leading the growth — rising over 23% YoY, driven by solar and wind as demand picked up ahead of summer. While conventional power still dominates supply, its slower growth points to a shift in India's energy mix



Source: Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU



HC: 'Right to be forgotten' part of privacy

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: In a landmark ruling, Delhi HC has recognised the "right to be forgotten" as an "integral facet" of the right to privacy, saying individuals cannot be condemned to suffer harm to their reputation merely because information about them remains indefinitely available in the digital domain.

HC said search engines such as Google cannot be perpetually permitted to show judicial records in name-based searches for cases that are private in nature or have ended in acquittal, discharge, quashing or settlement. It underlined that continued association of a person's name with allegations in the digital space may inflict disproportionate harm on dignity and reputation. The "shadow of crime" should not be allowed to replace the "shadow of dignity" after the legal process has vindicated a person, it said.

"The right to be forgotten, understood as subsuming the right of an individual to seek removal or restriction of personal information from public digital accessibility, where such information is no longer relevant or serves no legitimate purpose, flows naturally and necessarily from the constitutional recognition of informational privacy under Article 21," Justice Sachin Dutta noted in an order passed last week and made available now.

Court granted relief to a batch of petitioners and directed authorities, search engine operators and legal database platforms to de-index and disable their "name-based search functionality" in respect of verdicts, orders and news articles concerning those who had a favourable end to court cases.

It noted that informational privacy means the right of a person to decide what information about them is disclosed, to whom, and for what purpose. Justice Dutta, however, made it clear that de-indexing would not apply in cases involving convictions for offences against women or children, offences involving breach of public trust, or cases involving public servants and elected representatives.

The verdict, delivered on a batch of more than 30 petitions, made a distinction in certain cases. HC refused relief to PP Madhva, who sought de-indexing after a settlement in a sexual offence case. It held there was a continuing public interest in accessibility of proceedings touching upon serious allegations against a public figure. Similarly, it declined relief to reality show celebrity Ashutosh Kaushik, who sought removal of posts, videos and articles depicting incidents of drunken behaviour, saying the "right to be forgotten" is not a mechanism for the "selective erasure" of a public figure's past conduct. HC observed that since the fundamental right to informational privacy is not limited by territory, de-indexing must operate globally.

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Restore woman's number blocked on hubby's false plaint: HC to cops

Prayagraj: Allahabad high court has directed Lucknow police's cyber cell to immediately restore a woman's mobile number that was blocked following her husband's complaint, **reports Rajesh Kumar Pandey**.

Observing that a citizen can't be subjected to such injustice due to the casual and arbitrary actions of state agencies, the court noted that the number had been blocked following an allegedly false complaint filed by the husband amid an ongoing matrimonial dispute.

Hearing a writ petition filed by the woman, who hails from Varanasi, HC directed the man to explain why he should not be ordered to pay compensation to his wife for filing a frivolous complaint that led to the disruption of her mobile services.

She "wants her number restored, but the cyber cell in-charge says the telecom firm has assigned it to another subscriber. A citizen can't be wronged due to callous handling by state agencies," HC added.

Rape survivor shouldn't be repeatedly called for cross examination: SC

New Delhi: Disapproving the practice of calling a rape survivor repeatedly to the witness box during trial proceedings, Supreme Court has held that she should not be harassed by asking her to appear in court for cross examination over and again.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma quashed the order passed by Tripura high court that had allowed the accused's plea to recall the survivor for examination four years after she was already cross-examined. It said that the prosecutrix had already been subjected to the ordeal of deposition and cross-examination on four separate occasions before the trial court, in addition to having her statement recorded during investigation and before the magistrate under Section 164 CrPC and it was harsh to recall her four years after she was cross-examined.

"Directing recall would inflict further and unjustifiable hardship upon the prosecutrix. The witnesses cannot be expected to face hardship of appearing in court repeatedly, particularly in sensitive cases. It can result in undue hardship for the victims, especially so, of heinous crimes, if they are required to repeatedly appear in Court to face cross-examination," the bench said.

The high court had passed the order to recall her under Section 311 of CrPC on a plea filed by the accused. Noting that sufficient ground doesn't exist for recalling the prosecutrix after such prolonged delay, SC allowed the plea of state govt which challenged the HC order.

"Mere observation that recall was necessary for ensuring fair trial is not enough unless there are tangible reasons to show how the fair trial suffered without recall. Recall is not a matter of course and the discretion given to the court has to be exercised judiciously to prevent failure of justice and not arbitrarily," the top court said.

Casual labourer in govt entitled to pensionary benefits, says SC

New Delhi: Observing that pension is not a "bounty but a enforceable constitutional right" and a hard-earned benefit amassed by a staffer by virtue of long and continuous service, Supreme Court Monday ruled that a temporary casual labourer in a govt department would be entitled to pensionary benefits on superannuation even in the absence of regularisation of job, **reports Amit Anand Choudhary**.

It took a widow from Bihar, whose husband worked as casual worker in a post office for three decades, to fight an 18-year legal battle through three layers of litigations — central administrative tribunal, Patna HC and SC — to get the pensionary benefit as SC rejected Centre's plea that it would cause financial burden. "Pension is not a matter of grace dependent upon the financial convenience of the employer, but a deferred wage earned through long years of service," it said.

It said govt should act as a model employer.

ET THE ECONOMIC TIMES | BUSINESS VERTICALS — A TIMES INTERNET INITIATIVE

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER — DR VIVEK BINDRA

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DR VINITA SAHAY

DR PRAFULLA Y AGNIHOTRI

AVNISH SINGHAL

PROF (DR) TANKESHWAR KUMAR

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SAURABH SEHGAL

MONIEKA KHANNA

MEENAKSHI SINGH

GARIASI DUTTA

NAMRATA SETHIA

DR CRAIG COOK

DR SNEHA NALLA

DR. KAVISHA KHURANA VIJ

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — AMAAL MALLIK

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — DHANASHREE VERMA

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — JAI MADAAN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER — KEERTHIKA GOVINDHASAMY

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CBI tests Giribala's account with 80kg dummy

P.Naveen@timesofindia.com

Bhopal: CBI officials reconstructed Monday the circumstances of former model-actor Twisha Sharma's death by alleged suicide at her marital home in MP's Bhopal on May 12, using a sand-filled dummy weighing around 80kg with iron dumbbells tied to its feet to replicate weight and body balance. The idea was to test whether former judge Giribala Singh and her lawyer son Samarth's account of bringing the deceased down after finding her hanging was plausible.

Giribala, who served as Bhopal's district judge between 2021 and 2023, was brought to the house along with her son for the reconstruction of events. The exercise lasted nearly two hours. Investigators asked Giribala to demonstrate removing the noose and untying the gymnastic strap from the dummy as Samarth held it. They observed and recorded each step, sources said.

ANI

TWISHA CASE: Officials asked Giribala to demonstrate removing the noose from the dummy as Samarth held it, at her MP house

Mother and son were also asked to explain, step by step, how events unfolded from the moment Twisha was allegedly found hanging to the process of bringing her down and taking her to hospital. The agency is examining whether the details recorded so far match the layout of the house, the time of the alleged suicide and forensic indicators.

The reconstruction is one of several investigative threads CBI is pursuing simultaneously. The probe team is likely to summon the doctor who had supposedly advised Twisha to undergo an abortion, seeking details of consultations, prescriptions, and her physical and mental condition ahead of taking that step.

Investigators are also scrutinising Samarth's movements during the period he remained untraceable after an FIR regarding his wife's death was registered on May 15. They are specifically looking into allegations of possible tampering of evidence and claims of physical assault on Twisha prior to her death.

Giribala's police remand is set to end Tuesday, and it remains unclear whether CBI will seek an extension. The prospect of judicial custody has raised an unusual concern. Sources in prison administration said many inmates currently housed in Bhopal jail were women convicted in cases heard by Giribala during her tenure on the bench, including accused and convicts linked to Vyapam scam.

Sources said keeping a former judicial officer in a regular prison barrack was fraught with security risks since inmates convicted and sentenced by her could harbour resentment. "In such cases, the prison administration generally conducts a threat and vulnerability assessment," a senior official said. Prison authorities may adopt special arrangements in exceptional situations, including segregated accommodation, additional surveillance or separate enclosures, depending on the perceived threat, officers said.

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल. 33004/99 REGD. No. D.L. - 33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY
(KADUR - HOSADURGA SECTION) (NATIONAL HIGHWAY 173)
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, K.R. CIRCLE, PWD COMPOUND, BENGALURU – 560001

PUBLIC NOTICE
(UNDER SECTION 3(G) OF N.H. ACT 1956)

S.O. 1549(E), Date: 24.03.2026 - Whereas by the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, **4722(E) Dated:17/10/2025,** published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) issued under sub-section (1) of section 3A of the National Highway Act, 1956 (48 of 1956) (hereinafter referred to as the said Act), the Central Government declared its intention to acquire the land specified in the Schedule annexed to the said notification for building (widening two lane with paved shoulders / four laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of **National Highway No -173 in the stretch of land from Km. 67.000 to Km. 104.00 (Kadur Hosadurga section) in the district of CHIKKAMAGALURU in the state of KARNATAKA;**

And whereas the substance of the said notification has been published in **"The Times of India" dated 26/10/2025 , "Vijaya Karnataka " dated 26/10/2025 ;** under sub-section (3) of section 3A of the said Act;

And whereas the Competent Authority has received objections filed under Section 3-C, considered and settled the same appropriately;

And whereas, in pursuance of sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the competent authority has submitted its report to the Central Government;

Now, therefore, upon receipt of the said report of the competent authority and in exercise of the powers conferred by the sub-section (1) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that the land specified in the said Schedule should be acquired for the aforesaid purpose;

And further, in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 3D of the said Act, the Central Government hereby declares that on publication of this notification in the Official Gazette, the land specified in the said Schedule shall vest absolutely in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances. The land owners can submit their statements if any, along with relevant property documents to the below address.

Name of the Villages	Enquiry Date and Time	The place where the land owners / interested persons have to appear & submit / their claims
KADUR TALUK **Giriyapura, Chikkanalluru, Sanklapura, Hirenalluru, Narasipura, Kamanakere, Chikapatnagere, Kadur, Turuvanahalli, Bantanahalli, Ullenagaru** **AJJAMPURA TALUK** **Sollapura, Savathanahalli, Tamatadahalli, Antaragatta,**	**11/06/2026 FROM 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM**	**Office of the Special Land Acquisition Officer & Competent Authority National Highways K.R. Circle, PWD Compound, Bangalore-01.**

Sd/-
SPECIAL LAND ACQUISITION OFFICER & COMPETENT AUTHORITY
NH-173, KADUR-HOSADURGA SECTION
NATIONAL HIGHWAYS, K.R. CIRCLE, PWD COMPOUND, BANGALORE-560001.

SCHEDULE

Brief description of the land to be acquired, with or without structure, falling within the stretch of land from Km. 67.000 to Km. 104.00 (Kadur Hosadurga section) of NH-173 in the district of CHIKKAMAGALURU in the state of KARNATAKA.

STATE : KARNATAKA **DISTRICT: CHIKKAMAGALURU**

Sl. No.	Survey Number	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area in Hectares	Name of the Land Owner / Interested Person
1	2	3	4	5	6
TALUK: KADUR					
Village: Giriyapura					
1	127/5	Private	Dry	0.01111	Halamma, Arunkumar, Anandamurthy , Dakshinamurthy, Ashok, J.P.Premalatha
2	52/2	Private	Dry	0.0631	Kallappa S/o Basappa, Rajappa S/o Basappa
3	54/3	Private	Garden	0.0025	Kallappa S/o Basappa, Chandrappa S/o Kallappa Nagappa S/o Kallappa, Siddamma D/o Late Erappa, C.M.Halappa S/o Late Mahadevappa, Karibasappa S/o Late Erappam Kallamma S/o Late Erappa, Nanjundappa S/o Late Erappa, Rudramma D/o Late Erappa Shivanna S/o Late Erappa, Shekarappa S/o Late Erappa, Shiddappa S/o Late Erappa
4	72/1	Private	Dry	0.01111	Channaveerappa S/o Mahadevappa , C.Halappa S/o Chandrappa, Kallappa S/o Basappa, Sidrammappa S/o Basappa, Chandrappa S/o Basappa, Nagappa S/o Kallappa Najappa S/o Basappa Siddamma D/o Late Erappa, C.M.Halappa S/o Late Mahadevappa, Karibasappa S/o Late Erappa Kallamma S/o Late Erappa, Nanjundappa S/o Late Erappa, Rudramma D/o Late Erappa Shivanna S/o Late Erappa, Shekarappa S/o Late Erappa, Shiddappa S/o Late Erappa
5	80	Private	Dry	0.025	G.S.Tontadarya S/o Shivarudrappa, G.S.Shivakumar S/o Mrutyunjaya, G.S.Gurushantappa S/o Shivarudrappa
6	81/3	Private	Dry	0.0328	Nagabhushan S/o G.S.Anandamurthy
7	81/4	Private	Dry	0.005	G.N.Gangadarappa S/o Najappa
8	83/6	Private	Dry	0.0808	G.P. Mahantheshappa S/o Puttppa
9	89	Private	Dry	0.0361	Rudrappa S/o Somanna
Village: Chikkanalluru					
10	193/6	Private	Dry	0.0025	C E Mohana S/o C K Eranna Yane C K Erappa Yane Veerappa C
11	197/10	Private	Dry	0.005	Lokeshachar S/o late Kalleshachar, Malleshachar S/o late Kalleshachar, Parameshwarachar S/o late Kalleshachar
12	197/16	Private	Dry	0.0126	Parameshwarachar S/o late Kalleshachar
13	203/1	Private	Dry	0.0202	Revanna S/o Chikkanna, Gangamma W/o Mallappa, C K Nagappa S/o Kallappa
14	203/6	Private	Dry	0.0808	Rathnamma W/o Late Chandrappa
15	209/1	Private	Dry	0.0025	Prema S/o Late Rudrappa (209/2)
16	210/3	Private	Dry	0.0252	Rathnamma W/o Late Chandrappa, Sharadamma S/o Late C N Eshwarappa, Bhagya S/o Late C N Eshwarappa, Shobha U W/o Late Sampath Kumar
17	80/6	Private	Wet	0.159	N Rajashekharappa S/o K Ningappa
18	86/3	Private	Dry	0.2626	R Shivakumar S/o Late Rudrappa, C K Nagarajappa, C K Ravi S/o R Kadappa, Chandru C.O (86/1, 86/2, 86/3 (86/3A, 86/3B)
19	86/4	Private	Dry	0.0454	Kodimallappa S/o Late K Siddappa, Kodimallappa
20	86/5	Private	Dry	0.0126	C.Nagarajappa S/o Kadappa
21	89/1	Private	Dry	0.00505	Sakamma S/o Ningappa
22	91	Private	Garden	0.01111	Parvathamma W/o Siddappa, C R Parameshwarappa S/o C G Rudrappa G Mallikarajunappa S/o Gangappa, Halappa S/o Gangappa Malleshappa S/o Veerabhadrappa Halappa S/o Gangappa Parvathamma W/o Rudrappa (91/1, 91/2B, 91/3, 91/4, 91/5, 91/6)
23	92/1	Private	Garden	0.0202	Kallappa, Basamma, Marulasiddappa
24	92/6	Private	Garden	0.00758	Prema W/o Prakash C N
25	92/8	Private	Garden	0.0126	Prakash C N S/o Late Ningappa
26	93/1	Private	Garden	0.03258	Marula siddappa S/o Ujjanappa
Village: Sanklapura					
27	41/2P	Private	Dry	0.0202	Umeshappa S/o S Kambappa 41/2
28	43/12	Private	Dry	0.0404	Chadrappa D S/o Late Dodda Thimmappa
29	43/16	Private	Dry	0.4115	S K Umeshappa S/o S Kambappa 43/10
30	43/2	Private	Dry	0.0606	Kumari W/o S.K.Yogendra, Kariyamma W/o S.H.Chadrappa
31	43/3	Private	NAK	0.0555	S T Revanasiddappa S/o Thimmappa, S T Maheswarappa S/o Thimmappa
32	43/5	Private	Dry	0.0454	S E Mallesheppa S/o Eswarappa
33	43/6	Private	Dry	0.0404	Sumitramma W/o Late Parameswarappa S.E
34	44	Private	Dry	0.1919	B.Gangamma W/o Late puttalingappa
35	45	Private	Dry	0.2828	Government (Tank)
Village: Hirenalluru					
36	111/2	Private	Dry	0.0151	H.N.Shivakumar S/o Late H.N.Nanjaiah
37	113/1	Private	Dry	0.0075	H.R.Gurumurthy S/o Revanasiddappa
38	114/1	Private	Dry	0.0126	Bagyamma W/o Rajappa
39	114/10	Private	Dry	0.0101	H.M.Nagendrappa S/o Marulappa
40	114/11	Private	Dry	0.0606	H.M.Nagendrappa S/o Marulappa
41	114/12	Private	Dry	0.0101	S.Shivamurthappa S/o Siddappa
42	114/3	Private	Dry	0.0126	Rudrappa S/o Late Ningappa
43	115/10	Private	Dry	0.0202	H.S.Suresh S/o Late H.B.Siddaiah
44	115/11	Private	Dry	0.0681	H.S.Sadashivaiah S/o Late H.B.Siddaiah
45	115/13	Private	Dry	0.0126	G.P.Ambika W/o Late H.M.Nagaraj
46	115/1A	Private	Dry	0.0656	H M Shivalingappa S/o Mallappa
47	121/13	Private	Dry	0.0025	H B Latha W/o Murugeshappa H G H B Latha W/o Murugeshappa H G NAK
48	121/14	Private	Dry	0.0025	H K Indhudhara S/o late H N Kumarappa H K Shivalingasvami S/o late H N Kumarappa
49	121/16	Private	Dry	0.0025	H.B.Sudha W/o H.L.Veerabhadrappa
50	121/17	Private	Dry	0.0101	H.B.Ratnamma W/o H.B.Girishappa
51	121/19	Private	Dry	0.0328	H N Mauleshappa S/o H Nagendrappa
52	121/21	Private	Dry	0.0101	H Ananda S/o Huchappa
53	121/22	Private	Dry	0.0227	H.S.Basavaraj S/o Late H.N.Shivalingappa
54	121/2A	Private	Dry	0.0404	H G Omkarappa S/o Giriyappa G Chandrappa S/o Giriyappa
55	121/5	Private	Dry	0.0151	H N Somashekharappa S/o Nagendrappa
56	121/6	Private	Dry	0.0126	Chandrappa S/o Doddaiah H C Somashkharappa S/o H D Chandappa N M Pushpa W/o H C Veerannamoorthi H C Omkarappa S/o H D Chandappa H C Ginningappa S/o H D Chandappa H C Lingeshappa S/o H D Chandappa H C Yashavanth Kumar S/o H D Chandappa H C Shashidhar S/o H D Chandappa H C Lohitashva S/o H D Chandappa H C Shivalingamma W/o G Chandrappa H C Sunanda W/o N M Channabasappa G, Girija W/o late C Thammaiah
57	121/9	Private	Dry	0.0025	H.S.Anantha S/o H.N.Srikantappa
58	123/3	Private	Dry	0.0328	A S Neelamma W/o H S Gurushanthaiah
59	123/4	Private	Dry	0.0101	H E Kantharaju S/o H M Eashvarappa
60	129/2	Private	Dry	0.0176	H D Omkaramurthi S/o Doddasiddappa
61	129/3	Private	Dry	0.0075	H E Omkarappa S/o Giriyappa
62	4/1	Private	Dry	0.0277	G.R.Mahabalesh S/o Late Rudrappa G.N
63	4/10	Private	Dry	0.0656	G.P.Madhukumar S/o Late G.N.Puttappa
64	4/5	Private	Dry	0.05808	G.M.Hemareddy S/o G.K.Mahanthappa
65	73/1	Private	Dry	0.0202	Bharath G.S Yane Bharath S Giriyapura S/o late G.R.Srikantaiah
66	73/4	Private	Dry	0.00505	G.S.Dayanand S/o Late G.R.Shivakumar
67	73/5	Private	Dry	0.0101	Bharath G.S Yane Bharath S Giriyapura S/o late G.R.Srikantaiah
68	83/1	Private	Dry	0.0126	Puttappa S/o Hanumappa, Chandrappa S/o Rudrappa
69	84/3	Private	Dry	0.0151	H.N.Bhagya W/o Mruthyunjayappa N
70	86/5	Private	Dry	0.0277	Kariyamma W/o Ba Thimmappa, Marulisiddamma W/o Ramannam Siddappa S/o Govindappa, Hanumantappa S/o Govindappa, Rajappa S/o Late Basappa, Renukamma W/o late Shekarappa
Village: Narasipura					
71	33	Private	Dry	0.0889	Parameswarappa S/o Nagappa, N. Mallappa S/o Nagappa
72	village	Private	Grama-tana	0.0505	Gramatana
Village: Kamanakere					
73	114/1B	Private	Dry	0.005	K S Leelavathi W/o Eshvarappa Annappa S/o Shankrappa K R Gangappa S/o Rudrappa K N Mallikarjunappa S/o late Nanjundappa Umamaheshvarappa Yogeshappa S/o Gangappa Mallikarjunappa S/o Nanjundaiah others
74	114/2	Private	Dry	0.0025	Prasanna K G S/o Gangappa
75	114/7	Private	Dry	0.0025	Radhamma W/o late Shivamoortappa
76	114/9	Private	Dry	0.0025	Maheshvaramma W/o late K H Rudrappa
77	116/1	Private	Dry	0.03608	Santhosh S/o K C Sureshappa Yashavanth S/o K C Sureshappa
78	116/2	Private	Dry	0.0101	K.S.Ramachandrappa S/o K.Satyanarayanasetty
79	118/1	Private	Garden	0.0101	Gauramma W/o Rudrappa
80	151/2	Private	Dry	0.0025	Sharadamma W/o late Gangadharappa
81	23/1	Private	Dry	0.0025	K E Malleshappa S/o Eshvarappa
82	24/1	Private	Dry	0.0025	Rudramma W/o late D S Halappa Parvatappa S/o late D S Halappa Basavaraj S/o late D S Halappa Jayanthi D/o late D S Halappa Panchakshari S/o late D S Halappa Prasanna S/o late D S Halappa Shivakumar S/o late D S Halappa Prathima W/o late Jayanna
83	24/3	Private	Dry	0.005	K.H.Parvatappa S/o Late D.S.Halappa
84	87/2A	Private	Dry	0.0101	Sannananjappa S/o Siddanna Kalappa S/o Siddappa
Village: Chikapatnagere					
85	142/1	Private	Dry	0.0555	H Gangappa S/o Late Honnalappa C D Yashodamma W/o late Srinivasa Devaraj S/o late Honnalappa K A Umesha S/o Odeya Savithramma W/o Late K M Manjappa, K M Kumar Odeyar
86	142/20	Private	Dry	0.02	Devaraj S/o Honnalappa (142/3)
87	143/30	Private	Dry	0.0126	Parameswara R S/o Ramaiah Bhu Pa
Village: Kadur					
88	216/1	Private	Dry	0.4065	Ratnamma W/o Parameswarappa Timmamma W/o Late Rangappa (216/1 & 216/39)
89	216/37	Private	NAK	0.0505	Chethan K Patel S/o Kushala S Patel NAK
90	217/2	Private	Dry	0.105	K B Shekharappa S/o late Bingyannana B Vasudeva S/o late Bingyannana K B Raju S/o late Bingyannana, K E Revanappa S/o late Eralappa
91	217/4	Private	Dry	0.055	K E Revanna S/o Bingyannana Eralappa
92	227	Private	Dry	0.1119	Parameshwarappa S/o Eranna K E Parameshwarappa S/o Late K S Eranna K R Ravi S/o Ramanna (227/1, 227/2)
93	258/3A	Private	Dry	0.3206	Srinivas S/o Govindappa, H.M.Nataraj S/o Late H.M.Mallapp, H.M.Nandakumar S/o Late H.M.Mallapp, H.M.Mallikarjuna S/o Late H.M.Mallapp Ranganatha S/o Govindappa, Krishnappa S/o Govindappa, K.N.Ningappa yane K.G.Ningappa S/o Late Govindappa yane Kariyan Govindappa
94	258/3B	Private	Dry	0.0606	H S Vasantha S/o Sadashivappa
95	259/11	Private	Dry	0.0606	Harish S/o Late Chikkanna
96	259/4	Private	Dry	0.0101	H Mahalingappa S/o Late H N Halappa, Kamalamma H.C. H.N.Naveen, H Nagaraju S/o Late H N Halappa
97	259/5	Private	Dry	0.0101	Mahalingappa S/o H N Halappa
98	259/6	Private	Dry	0.0631	H M Umapathi S/o H V Mallappa
99	259/7	Private	Dry	0.0025	B Krishnamurthy S/o Late Nandibasappa
100	259/8	Private	Dry	0.0101	B Krishnamurthy S/o Late Nandibasappa Yane Basappa
101	259/9	Private	Dry	0.0151	Thimmegowda S/o Ranganna
102	262/3	Private	Dry	0.303	Sri Kumar K S S/o Late Somanna Yane Somaiah
103	262/4	Private	Dry	0.0353	Manjamma W/o Umesh H C Pushpa W/o H M Dakshina murthy
104	262/6	Private	Dry	0.0353	H.B.Shankarappa S/o B.C.Basavarajappa
105	271/1	Private	Dry	0.0656	B C Kushakumar S/o Chandregowda
106	275/2	Private	Dry	0.0833	K R Shivappa S/o H Ramaiah
107	275/3	Private	Dry	0.005	Chandramma W/o Late K.R.Lakshana
108	275/4	Private	Dry	0.0176	Mahesh K P S/o G Parappa
109	275/5	Private	Dry	0.0101	B.Srinivas S/o Balaraj
110	276/3	Private	Dry	0.0545	Kumaraswamy S/o Maralaiah Dakshana murthy S/o Maralaiah (276/3)
111	279/1A	Private	Dry	0.05	Kanthamma W/o Late Somashekharappa Basavaraju late Huliyappa H Ramesh Late Huliyappa
112	279/4	Private	Dry	0.1111	Eshwarappa S/o Puttaveerappa (279/9) Rahul S/o Puttaveerappa
113	281	Private	Dry	0.0353	H B Halappa S/o H M Basappa
114	360	Private	Dry	0.1262	D K Suma W/o Parameshwarappa Parameshwarappa S/o Begurappa K T Lokeshappa S/o Timmaiah K T Beerappa S/o Timmaiah
115	362/1	Private	Dry	0.0681	K N Muddappa S/o Ninganna
116	363/1	Private	Dry	0.1893	Muddappa S/o Ninganna
117	363/7	Private	Dry	0.0076	Umesh K M S/o Manjappa
118	379/1	Private	Dry	0.0707	K.L.Revanna S/o Lakkappa
119	379/3	Private	Dry	0.00505	K.L.Hucchappa S/o Lakkappa
120	380	Private	Dry	0.4014	K T Beerappa S/o Timmaiah, K H Laxmamma W/o Revanappa, K R Yogendra S/o Late G Mallaiah K R Prakash S/o Revannaiah
121	382	Private	Dry	0.0328	K R Yogendra S/o Late G Mallaiah K R Nagendra S/o K H Revanappa K H Honnamma W/o K M Halappa (382/1, 382/2, 382/3)
122	383/1	Private	Dry	0.0126	K M Halappa S/o K L Marulappa H M Ramachandrappa S/o Late H B Malleshappa
123	383/2	Private	Dry	0.0429	T Hanumantappa S/o Timmaiah
124	383/3	Private	Dry	0.00505	K.R.Nagendra S/o K.H.Revannappa
125	402	Private	Dry	0.0176	S Ranganatha S/o Late Siddappa Basavaraju S/o Halappa
126	410/1	Private	Dry	0.0176	Eshwarappa H B S/o Late H M Basappa
Village: Turuvanahalli					
127	157/1	Private	NAK	0.0252	Gangamma W/o Lae Timmaiah
128	157/9	Private	Dry	0.0075	Halappa K M S/o Mariyappa
129	160/1	Private	NAK	0.0277	K G Dushyantha Kumar S/o Govindappa K G Bhoopala S/o Govindappa
130	160/2	Private	NAK	0.00505	K G Dushyantha Kumar S/o Govindappa K G Bhoopala S/o Govindappa
131	160/3	Private	NAK	0.0252	K S Prakash S/o Late K C Shreekantappa NAK
132	160/4	Private	NAK	0.0252	K S Prakash S/o Late K C Shreekantappa NAK
133	161/1	Private	Dry	0.0075	Murali S/o K M Krishnamurthy
134	162/1	Private	Dry	0.0126	Murali S/o K M Krishnamurthy
135	162/3	Private	Dry	0.0176	Gangadhara S/o Late Siddappa
136	163/1	Private	Dry	0.0126	Kalavathi W/o K T Kumar S/o K T Timmaiah
137	163/11	Private	Dry	0.0075	K T Timmaiah S/o Timmaiah
138	163/12	Private	Dry	0.0075	K T Ramesh S/o K T Timmaiah
139	163/13	Private	Dry	0.0101	K T Raju S/o K T Timmaiah
140	164/1	Private	Dry	0.0151	T Raaju S/o Timmaiah
141	165/1	Private	Dry	0.0025	Sathish K M S/o Late K T Murthy Yane Murthappa
142	165/5	Private	Dry	0.0151	Nandan S S/o S Somashekhar NAK
143	167/4	Private	Dry	0.04719	Jagadish S/o Timmaiah , (NAK)
144	169/2	Private	Dry	0.0025	Rayanna S/o Huchanna
145	172/1A1	Private	Dry	0.1212	Somanatha S/o Govindappa
146	172/1A2	Private	NAK	0.0732	Bhagaban Sing S/o Mothi Sing
147	172/1A3	Private	Dry	0.0075	K N Jagadish S/o Naganna
148	172/1A4	Private	Dry	0.0479	Ramesh Kumar Kotari S S/o late Sohan Lal Kotari
149	172/2	Private	Dry	0.0126	Saganappa S/o Huchappa
150	172/3	Private	Dry	0.0455	Devendra S/o late Timmanna Mahesha S/o Timmanna
151	172/4	Private	Dry	0.0126	Laxmamma W/o Late Timmanna
152	173	Private	Dry	0.00505	Sagunappa S/o Huchanna Ramappa S/o Hucahanna Lakkamma W/o late Timmanna
153	179	Private	Dry	0.06	Yashodamma W/o late Lokesh S/o Late Bingyanna K T Suresh S/o K N Timmaiah
154	189/3	Private	Dry	0.0252	K N Timmaiah S/o Naganna
155	190	Private	Dry	0.0429	Gangadhara S/o Seetharamaih Siddappa S/o Seetharamaiah
156	192/1	Private	Dry	0.0202	K T Puttappa S/o Timmaiah Siddappa S/o Nirvanappa Bairappa S/o Nirvanappa Parameshwarappa S/o Nirvanappa Rajappa K S/o Gangamma Neelamma S/o Gangamma Ravi K S/o Gangamma Laxmamma S/o Nirvanappa Jayamma S/o Nirvanappa

contd. to next page....

1	2	3	4	5	6
157	192/3	Private	NAK	0.02	Ramachandra K P S/o Puttappa K T NAK
158	192/4	Private	NAK	0.02	Ravichandra K P S/o Puttappa K T NAK
159	24/2	Private	Dry	0.0328	Janardhana T R S/o Rangappa
160	24/3	Private	Dry	0.0252	Sidlingappa S/o Siddappa
161	24/4	Private	Dry	0.0202	T S Yadiyuraiah S/o Siddaiah
162	26/4	Private	Dry	0.0025	Nirvanaswamy S/o Chidananda Swamy
163	26/5	Private	Dry	0.0151	Kumaraswamy N.C. S/o Chidanandaswamy N.B
164	26/6	Private	Dry	0.0126	Sadashivaiah S/o Basavaiah
165	32/5	Private	Dry	0.0025	Ramesh T.C S/o Chandrappa
166	32/6	Private	Dry	0.005	Ramesh T.C S/o Chandrappa
167	32/7	Private	Dry	0.0025	Hemanth Kumar K.R. S/o Late Rangaswamy
168	35/3	Private	Dry	0.0176	Usha D W/o Dhanaraju
169	70/1	Private	Dry	0.2196	Somesh S/o Somanna, Mahesh S/o Basappa (70/1 & 70/8)
170	70/12	Private	NAK	0.1363	Channamma W/o Papanna H.K (70/6)
171	70/2	Private	Dry	0.1425	Nagaraj S S/o K.T.Shekarappa
172	70/3	Private	NAK	0.2775	K T Puttappa S/o Timmaiah
173	70/4	Private	Dry	0.0505	Mahesha S/o Timmanna
174	70/5	Private	Dry	0.0606	Somesha S/o Late Somaiah Basappa S/o Timmaiah
175	70/7	Private	Dry	0.0606	Devendra S/o late Timmanna
Village: Bantanahalli					
176	1/1A1	Private	Dry	0.0227	Nanjundappa S/o Mahadevappa, Gangappa S/o Late Nanjappa, M.Rajappa S/o Malllappa, Eramma K.M. W/o Late Thimmappa M, Prasanna B.T S/o Late Thimmappa M, Yogisha B.S. S/o Late Shidramappa, B.M. Jayasri S/o Late Sidramappa
177	191/2	Private	Dry	0.0101	Sannamappa S/o Ningappa
178	192/2	Private	Dry	0.0934	Mailarappa S/o Mallappa Gangamma, Ningappa, (192/1)
179	193	Private	Dry	0.0075	Gangamma W/o Neelappa
180	2/1	Private	Dry	0.0151	Lalitamma W/o Late Mailarappa, Mukthabayi W/o Late N.Kariyappa, N.Mahalingappa S/o Late Ningappa,Hanumantappa S/o Late Mailarappa
181	2/2	Private	Dry	0.0227	Nagarajappa S/o Late Ningappa
182	227/1	Private	Dry	0.005	Ramappa
183	227/2	Private	Dry	0.005	Nagappa
184	227/3	Private	Dry	0.0025	Dasappa
185	228/1	Private	Dry	0.0075	Thimmaiah S/o Thimmappa
186	228/2	Private	Dry	0.005	M Basavarappa S/o Mallappa
187	229/1	Private	Dry	0.0025	Mallappa S/o Lakshmanappa Hanumanthappa S/o Lakshmanappa
188	229/2	Private	Dry	0.0277	As per RTC
189	231/1	Private	Dry	0.0101	Malleshappa S/o Late Bettappa (231/2, 231/4)
190	75	Private	Dry	0.0454	Gomala Dalavayappa S/o Maliyappa, Nagarajappa S/o Hanumaiah Puttamma W/o Malleshappa, Gangamma W/o Late Aremallappa
191	76	Private	Dry	0.0025	Gomala
192	90/1	Private	Dry	0.0555	Kvananna Ao Mallanna Govindappa S/o Mallappa Rudrappa S/o Konari Ramanna, Govindappa S/o Mallappa Gurusiddappa S/o Mallappa Gangamma W/o Mallappa Rudrappa S/o Konari Ramanna Sheshappa S/o Konari Ramanna Gurusiddappa S/o late Mallappa Revamma W/o Late Govindappa H G Rajappa
193	91/5	Private	Dry	0.0025	Mallappa Yane Mallikarjunappa S/o Rudarappa
194	99	Private	Dry	0.0277	Mallappa S/o Kariyanna
Village: Ullenagaru					
195	37/14	Private	Garden	0.0606	Somanna S/o Ningappa
196	37/22	Private	Dry	0.0025	Shameera begam W/o Late Rafic
197	48	Private	Dry	0.4545	Rajanna S/o Govindappa, Rangappa S/o Govindappa, Sudha, Nikhitha, D.Krishna, Saganamma, Krushnamurthi, Jagadeesh, Rajeev, K.P.Chandrashekar, K.P.Rudrappa, K.P.Lokesh, Gangamma [48/1, 48/5, 48/6, 48/7, 48/7, 48/9, 48/10, 48/11, 48/12, 48/13, 48/14]
198	49	Private	Dry	0.0404	Mudlagiriyappa S/o Dasappa
199	50	Private	Dry	0.0555	Krishnamurthy S/o Late Govindappa, Thimmaia S/o Late Govindappa, Paramesh S/o Late Govindappa, Mallappa S/o Dasappa, Mudalagiriyappa S/o Dasappa
200	65/1	Private	Dry	0.0303	Suresh KG S/o Nalluri, Govindappa Yane Govindappa
201	66/*	Private	Dry	0.1464	Sharadamma W/o late Gangadharappa, T. Gangadhara S/o Thimmaiah, Jagannatha S/o Thimmaiah
TALUK: AJJAMPURA					
Village: Sollapura					
202	4	Private	Dry	0.0303	Grama Badavane ALN
203	6/1	Private	Dry	0.0102	Karagangamma S/o Late Basappa, Siddaramappa S/o Late Basappa, Gangamma W/o Late Gadigappa, Siddaiah S/o Kanthaiah
204	6/2	Private	Dry	0.0833	Vijyakumar S.G S/o S.Gangadaraiah
205	6/5	Private	Dry	0.0025	Shiddaiah S/o Kanthaiah
Village: Savathanahalli					
206	76	Private	Dry	0.0227	Gomala,
Village: Tamatadahalli					
207	11/2	Private	Dry	0.0808	Rajamma, Vanajakshamma, Manjula, Kantaraj (11/10, 11/11, 11/6, 11/7, 11/8)
208	17	Private	Dry	0.0757	T S Mallegowda S/o Siddaramegowda T S Siddappa S/o late Siddaramappa S, Halappa S/o Late Siddaramappa K S Mahadevappa S/o Siddaramappa Yane Siddaramanna T S Siddaramappa S/o Sannaninganna T M Vasantha S/o late Mariyappa Vanitha S/o late Mariyappa (17/3, 17/4, 17/9,17/9, 17/13,17/15)
209	18/3	Private	Dry	0.0025	Yogamma S/o Mallaiah
210	18/6	Private	Dry	0.0101	Suvrna W/o Basavarajappa, M.S.Kanchana W/o Siddaramappa
211	19	Private	Dry	0.0606	Gangamma W/o Late S.G.Basavarajappa, S.D.Sampathkumar S/o late Deveerappa Gangamma W/o Late Siddaramappa
Village: Antaragatta					
212	40	Government	Gomala	0.16665	Government
213	43/10	Private	Dry	0.0303	A.C.Lakshmidevai D/o Late Chandrappa
214	43/11	Private	Dry	0.0303	A.C. Umesh S/o Late Chandrappa
215	43/12	Private	Dry	0.0303	Bhagyajyothi W/o A.R.Ravi
216	43/1B	Private	Dry	0.27775	Kariyappa S/o Doddamallayya
217	43/3	Private	Dry	0.04444	Boothappa S/o Doddachikkanna
218	43/4	Private	Dry	0.0167	Halappa C S/o Late Channabasappa
219	43/7	Private	Dry	0.0025	Boothappa S/o Doddachikkanna
220	43/8	Private	Dry	0.0303	A.C. Jagadeesh S/o Late Chandrappa
221	43/9	Private	Dry	0.0303	A.C. Kariyappa S/o Late Chandrappa
222	51	Government	Dry	0.25278	Tank Narayarana Rao S/o Ananthiah
223	52	Private	Garden	0.1161	K Thippeswamy S/o Kariyappa, Thimmappa S/o Kariyappa, Umeshappa S/o Kariyappa, H.H.Ujjanappa S/o Hunumanthappa, Manjappa, Naveen S/o Sushilamma, Basamma W/o Govindappa, Mahabubh Sab Alllabakshisab, Hanumantamma W/o Late Rangappa, Ratnamma W/o Late Rangappa, Anushuya W/o Late Thimmappa, Ravikumar S/o Late Rangappa, Lalithamma D/o Late Rangappa
224	53	Private	Karabu	0.5056	Hullubanni Karabhu
			Total	**11.24076**	

[F. No. RWNH-120371/14/2021-22/KNT LZone-III-I/3D]

SHAIKH AMINKHAN, Director

ऑयल एण्ड नेचुरल गैस कॉरपोरेशन लिमिटेड
Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

Digitization of Suggested Vendor List (SVL)
(EXTENSION OF DATE)

ONGC is digitizing its existing Onshore and Offshore Suggested Vendor List (SVL). With reference to the **Advertisement Notice dated 27.02.2026** published in Same Newspapers & ONGC websites, the date of registration on the ONGC Vendor Registration Portal is hereby **extended by three (03) months.** All currently enlisted SVL vendors are required to register on the ONGC Vendor Registration Portal (**https://vendor.ongc.co.in**) under their respective discipline/item/category.

- No additional PQD documents are required for already enlisted items.
- Vendors must update contact details and submit the prescribed undertaking (separate undertaking for each item), duly signed by the authorized signatory.
- For new item enlistment, the regular PQD process will apply.

Registration must be completed within three (03) months from the date of this notification. Failure to register within the stipulated period will result in removal from the Suggested Vendor List (SVL).

Advertisement No. 59/2026

Government of India
Public Enterprises Selection Board
invites applications for the post of

DIRECTOR (PROJECTS)
IN
ENGINEERS INDIA LIMITED (EIL)

Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15:00 hours on **22.06.2026**

Last date of forwarding of applications by the Nodal Officers to PESB is by 17:00 hours on **01.07.2026**

For details login to website: https://pesb.gov.in

SBI
Social Media (Marketing & Communication Department),
State Bank Bhavan, Madame Cama Road, Nariman Point, Mumbai – 400021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

RFP NO. CC/M&C/26-27/01 DATED: 01.06.2026

Bids are invited by State Bank of India from the eligible bidders for Engagement of a Techno Legal Agency for State Bank of India. For details, please visit https://sbi.bank.in/web/sbi-in-the-news/procurement-news and to apply, please visit at https://etender.sbi/SBI/

Last date and time for submission of bids: 22.06.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.

Bid Opening Date: 22.06.2026 at 17:00 hrs.

Place: Mumbai
Date: 01.06.2026

Deputy General Manager
Social Media (M&C)

IndianOil
CIN-L23201MH1959GOI011388

PUBLIC TENDER

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. plans to onboard suitable alliance partner(s) for developing, operating and maintaining Non-fuel Retail (NFR) facilities at Wayside Amenities (WSA) sites located on Delhi-Amritsar Katra Expressway (Haryana State) under Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model. Interested Parties may refer to the detailed tender document with auction ID: 34867 (Reference No.: MnC/RS-1/PT-14/26-27) which is available in 'Forward auction tab' on GeM Portal (Website: https://gem.gov.in). Last date for submission of application is 26/06/2026 at 23.00 hrs. "This is a corrigendum to advertisement dt. 31.05.2026 and last date of bid submission to be read as 26.06.2026."

Ministry Of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
MSME - TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT CENTRE - (CDGI)
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
A1/1 Industrial Area, Firozabad 283203. ww.cdgiindia.net

GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE ON
HOW TO START YOUR OWN STARTUP
How to Raise Funds for New Business or Existing Business

Course Duration 2 Days (ONLINE) Date: 06 & 07 June 2026 Time : 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: 10 Steps to becoming a successful entrepreneur, How to Set Up/ New business with Govt. Support and Policies, **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme, Basics of Bankable Project Report,** Marketing Concept, Effective Business Plan, **Financial Management, Risk Management, Building Block, Negotiation Skills,** GST & Business Formation Process, **Case Study on Business Failure. INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY OF ENTREPRENEURS**

Fees : Rs.3,540/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 8603769900, 9953920498, 8168984069
FEE PAYMENT ONLY IN MSME TDC.CDGI ACCOUNT
Government of India certificate will be awarded

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE
MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES, GOVT. OF INDIA

GOVERNMENT CERTIFICATE COURSE ON
AI for Pharmaceutical R&D

Course Duration 4 Days (ONLINE) Date: 06 & 07 and 13 & 14 June 2026 Time : 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Course Content: Drug discovery process,Clinical trial design,Preclinical testing methods,Dose response studies,New drug approval steps,Adverse effect monitoring,Formulation development,Bioavailability testing,Quality control in R&D,Regulatory documentation,AI use in drug research,Vaccine formulation,Patent filing in pharma,Nanotech in drug delivery,Ethics in clinical research,Target identification,Lead optimization,Molecular docking,Pharmacokinetics basics, Pharmacodynamics studies,Data analysis in trials,Patient recruitment methods., More Topics

Fees : Rs.3,540/- (Study material in soft copy shall be provided)
Coordinator: 9818676612, 9818528498, 9686564246
Government of India certificate will be awarded

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
PARADIP PORT - 754142, ODISHA (INDIA)
ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT (ESTATE-WING)

No.AD/EST/LAND-I-60/2024(Pt.I)/1907 Dt.19.05.2026

e-Tender - cum- e-Auction Notice

An e-Tender-cum-e-Auction Notice invites bids for **"Allotment of a patch of Port land about 25 acres in-front of Gate No.3 for setting up of Tanker Facility for handling of Liquid Cargo/ Liquefied Gases (Chemicals, POL, LPG, etc.) on long term lease basis for a period of 30 years"** is available in the website from **19.05.2026 to 18.06.2026.** For details, interested bidders may log on the website **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**

PPA/PR/13/2026-2027 01/06/2026

Sd/- **Sr. Dy Secretary**
Paradip Port Authority

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No.
RWF/W/26-27/04 dtd. 27.05.2026

E-TENDERS: On behalf of the President of India, the Dy. CHIEF ENGINEER invites electronic tender for the following works online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** (Works).

Tender No. W.496/RWF/YNK/1084
Description : Upgradation and renewal of gantry girders, gantry rails and diaphragm connections at PC Bay inside factory premises of RWF.
Estimated Value : Rs. 42345967.65
EMD Amount : Rs. 846900.00
Closing Date & Time : 19/06/2026 at 15:00 hrs.

This tender notice can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**

Deputy Chief Engineer

6001/45/2627

omfed
www.omfed.com

The Odisha State Co-operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
D-2, Sahid Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007
PH NO.: 0674-2546030, 2540273, 2540417, 2540974
E-mail ID: omfed@yahoo.com

SEALED OFFER FOR SALE OF SMP

OMFED invites sealed tender for sale of SMP available at Arilo Dairy, Cuttack. The tender documents shall be available at our website **www.omfed.com** from dated 01.06.2026 (10.00 AM) to 08.06.2026 (02.00PM) and Techno-Commercial Bid shall be opened on 08.06.2026 on 03.00 P.M at OMFED Corporate Office, Bhubaneswar in the presence of the interested bidders. OMFED reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders wholly or partly without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
Managing Director
OPR-6001/6063/1/26-27/0026

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE OF THE TRANSPORT COMMISSIONER
J&K
e-mail address: transport-commjk@jk.gov.in
Tel No. Office (Jmu.) 0191-2476091
Tel No. Office (Sgr.) 0194-2506686

Cancellation Order

1. **M/s ANI Technologies Private Limited (OLA)**
   Regent Insigia, 414, 3rd Floor, 4th Block
   17th Main, 100 Feet Road, Koramangala
   Bangalore, Karnataka, India. (Registered Office)
2. **M/s ANI Technologies Private Limited (OLA)**
   ABC Building, New Plot, Jammu
   Near Krishna Building (Looks Salon)
   J&K (Branch Office)

Subject: Cancellation order to M/s Ani Technologies Private Limited (OLA).

Whereas, M/s ANI Technologies Private Limited (OLA) having Registered office at Regent Insigia, 414, 3rd Floor, 4th Block, 17th Main, 100 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bangalore, Karnataka, India with Branch office at ABC Building, New Plot, Jammu, Near Krishna Building (Looks Salon), J&K applied for Motor Vehicle Aggregator License;

Whereas, Motor Vehicle Aggregator License no. 0001, dated 21.09.2023 was granted in its favour with the following conditions:

The licensee shall comply with all the conditions as laid down under Rule 8-14 of S.O. 453 dated 29.08.2023 before start of operations within six months of date of issue of License if the Licensee fails to do so, License so issued shall be deemed to have been cancelled.

Whereas, as per the conditions laid down in the aforesaid licence, the registered office of M/s ANI Technologies Private Limited (OLA), situated at ABC Building, New Plot, Jammu, near Krishna Building (Looks Salon), J&K, has not been operationalized and the company has not commenced its operations from the said premises;

Whereas, the status of the Branch Office has been recorded as "Non-Functional" as the office was found to be non-traceable during the inspection conducted by the team of the Regional Transport Officer, Jammu, on 13.12.2024;

Whereas, three show cause notices/Suspension Notice in this regard vide no. TCJK-Gen/509/2023-07/4862-66 dated 01.12.2025, TCJK-Gen/509/2023-07/3054-58 dated 02.04.2026 and TCJK-Gen/509/2023-07/3777-82 dated 30.04.2026 were served to the organisation;

Whereas, no reply to these notices have been received by this office till date;

Now, therefore, in view of the facts and circumstances stated hereinabove, I, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, JKAS, in exercise of the powers conferred upon me vide S.O. 453 dated 29.08.2023, and under Rule/Section 19(1) of the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Rules, 2023, hereby cancel Motor Vehicle Aggregator License No. 0001 dated 21.09.2023, with immediate effect.

Sd/-
(Vishesh Paul Mahajan), JKAS
Transport Commissioner, J&K

DIP No:/DIP/J-2999/26/01.06.2026 No. TCJK-Gen/509/2023-07/326-331 Dated : 01.06.2026

JoSAA 2026 Counselling for Seat Allocation to UG Programs (AY 2026-27) in NITs, IIEST Shibpur, IIITs, and GFTIs starts from June 02, 2026

Notification No. CSAB2026/01, dated June 02, 2026

Online counselling for seat allocation to undergraduate programs (AY 2026–27) for NITs, IIEST Shibpur, IIITs and other GFTIs will be conducted through JoSAA 2026.

Candidates, who wish to participate in the JoSAA 2026 counselling process **MUST** complete the registration and choice-filling process between **June 02 and June 11, 2026.** Beyond this period, no candidate shall be allowed to participate. Detailed information regarding the counselling process is available on the official JoSAA website **(www.josaa.nic.in).**

Published by : Central Seat Allocation Board (CSAB) 2026
Coordinated by : IIEST, Shibpur

MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, NAGPUR
(Established by the Maharashtra Act No. VI of 2014)
Near Village Waranga, P.O. Dongargaon (Butibori), Nagpur – 441108
Website: www.nlunagpur.ac.in

RN-28 / June 1, 2026

Maharashtra National Law University, Nagpur, invites applications for the positions of **Asst. Professor of Law and Sociology**, on Contractual Basis. Detailed Notification, regarding the Pay, Qualification, the Form of Application and other details, is on the University's Official Website. For same details, please visit University's Website (www.nlunagpur.ac.in). Duly filled in applications must reach the University **at or before 5.00 pm. of 18th June 2026.**

Sd/-
(Deepak L. Bhagwat)
Registrar, MNLU, Nagpur

Ministry of Commerce & Industry Govt of India

एपीडा APEDA

BASMATI EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (BEDF)
(Founded by APEDA, Ministry of Commerce)
Regd. Office: 3rd Floor, NCUI Auditorium Building, August Kranti Marg, (Opp. Asiad Village), New Delhi-110016
(Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India)

RECRUITMENT NOTICE

BASMATI EXPORT DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (BEDF), New Delhi, invites applications for Recruitment to the post of **Advisor/Consultant/Lab Analyst/Subject Matter Specialist** on contract basis.

Information regarding eligibility criteria, qualification, period of appointment, last date and other details can be accessed from **www.apeda.gov.in.**

Director
BEDF

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL
(DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF HEALTH SERVICES)
22-SHAM NATH MARG, DELHI – 110 054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applications are invited for engagement of the one post of Machine Learning Scientist, for a period of one year at NCDC, Delhi on contract basis through Screening cum Selection Mode at NCDC, 22-Sham Nath Marg (Near Civil Lines Metro Station), Delhi- 110 054, as under: -

Name of the post	No. of posts	Place of Posting
Machine Learning Scientist	1	Delhi
Communication Officer	1	
Media Officer	1	

The last date of submission of application is 15.06.2026. The application must reach this office on or before 15.06.2026, by speed post/ by hand on all working days from 10.00 AM to 5.00 PM at General Services Section, Room No. 202, NCDC, 22 -Sham Nath Marg, Delhi - 110054. Application received after 15.06.2026 will not be entertained.

After scrutiny of the application forms, only eligible candidates as per ToR will be informed through email to appear for interview with date and time.

The Educational Qualification, ToR and other conditions may be viewed on the NCDC Website: www.ncdc.mohfw.gov.in.

NOTE: The Competent Authority reserves the right to modify or cancel selection process (in part or full), if need so arises without issuing any further reasons whatsoever.

Assistant Director (Admin.)
Email: prakashdoval@ncdc.gov.in

CBC 17129/11/0007/2627

GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE
LEVEL 9, WING-'A', DELHI SECRETARIAT
IP ESTATE, NEW DELHI

FileNo.DH&FW/33/2025-SOC-HFWDepartment/E275729/

Recruitment Notice

Applications are invited from the eligible Officers for the Post of Director in societies hospital/autonomous institute under Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi i.e. Delhi State Cancer Institute (DSCI), Dilshad Garden, Delhi – 110095.

For details regarding essential qualification, eligibility criteria, pay scale age, etc., candidates may please refer to the detailed advertisement on Official Website of H&FW Deptt., **http://health.delhigovt.nic.in**

Closing date of receiving application: 30/06/2026 till 05:00 PM.

Deputy Secretary
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0084/26-27

Inviting Applications for the engagement of contractual staff for period of 03 years in the department of

Punjab Sports Medical Services
(DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS & YOUTH SERVICES, GOVT. OF PUNJAB)

Punjab Sports Medical Services invites eligible candidates for appearing in the interview for the following posts in the Punjab Sports Medical cadre on a contract basis for a period of 3 years:

Sr. No.	Name of Posts	Vacant Posts	Lump sum Monthly Salary
1	Sports Medicine specialist	08	1,15,000/-
2	Accupressurist	01	45,000/-
3	Sports Physiotherapist	02	45,000/-
4	Bio Mechanic Assistant	13	40,000/-
5	Nursing Assistant/Clinic Assistant	01	40,000/-

Visit **pbsports.punjab.gov.in** for detailed information. Applicants are required to fill out the application form and send the mandatory educational qualifications and experience certificates by 22nd June, 2026.

The list of shortlisted candidates and interview schedule/details will be uploaded on 25th June, 2026 on the same website.

For any assistance/clarification, candidates may contact:

- PSMS Directorate Office No- 0172-2998098
- Lakhwinder Singh, Clerk – 9877323808 (Office hours only)

Sd/-
Director
P.S.M.S

DPR/Pb.:1051/12/2026-27/11673

Won't allow Myanmar territory to be used against India, says prez

PM Narendra Modi with President of Myanmar U Min Aung Hlaing in New Delhi on Monday

New Delhi: Trade, border security, development assistance and defence cooperation with focus on capacity building dominated PM Narendra Modi's meeting with visiting Myanmar President U Min Aung Hlaing as the latter reassured that Myanmar's territory would not be permitted to be used against India's security interests.

PM Modi reaffirmed India's support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar, and both sides underscored the importance of preventing the misuse of sovereign territory for activities inimical to their security interests, said foreign secretary Vikram Misri after the meeting.

According to a joint statement, Modi affirmed that India, as a steadfast and trusted partner of Myanmar, remained committed to deepening security cooperation between the two countries. Modi also discussed the ongoing peace process in the country underlining the need for enduring peace, inclusion and the importance of involving all stakeholders.

Briefing journalists on the talks, Misri backed engagement with Myanmar saying it's not intended to be a commentary on the internal political arrangements in the country and that disengagement could mean ceding space to other powers. TNN

Annamalai to exit BJP, float 'secular' regional party in TN

Expected To Launch It In 6 To 8 Months

Arun.Ram@timesofindia.com

> Vijay gave hope to youngsters that they can succeed in politics without money power or caste considerations. But when many of them, including technocrats from abroad, went to TVK, they found the old fans' association people blocking the door. **This is where we can open the doors. In two years, we can prove to be a force to reckon with**
>
> —K Annamalai

Chennai: Former TN BJP president K Annamalai will quit the saffron party in a couple of days and launch a "secular, regional party with a national outlook, perhaps even Dravidian in a redefined way", sources told TOI. He is expected to float the party "in six to eight months".

Annamalai is scheduled to meet Union home minister Amit Shah, BJP's national president Nitin Nabin and general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh in Delhi Tuesday to "explain the reasons for his leaving", the sources said.

The IPS officer-turned-politician's confidantes said he wanted the new party to oppose BJP and others based on issues. "If putting TN first is Dravidianism, he calls it Dravidian 2.0, which will function within the Indian framework. He wants to take everyone, including minor communities – outside and inside Hindus – along, and have Tamil pride without being chauvinistic," said a source.

Annamalai has had disagreements with the BJP brass in the past 18 months over its alliance with AIADMK and, later, candidate selection for the just-concluded assembly election. While he wanted to build from the ground up, even if it took long, the national leadership chose to piggyback on AIADMK with the sole objective of defeating DMK, sources said.

Annamalai thinks actor Vijay's success on his political debut has created a "fracture that has opened space for new forces", also marking "the end of a 60-year Dravidian cycle", as a source put it. "Like before, TN politics will have two poles in the 2031 assembly polls. Annamalai wants to be the second pole." Sources quoted Annamalai as telling his confidantes that "Vijay gave hope to youngsters that they can succeed in politics without money power or caste considerations".

"But when many of them, including technocrats from abroad, went to TVK, they found the old fans' association people blocking the door. This is where we can open the doors. In two years, we can prove to be a force to reckon with," he said.

He is also confident of getting some political veterans from other parties on his side. "Many have been staying away because he is with BJP. Once he floats a new party, they will join him," said a source.

Vijay: DMK left behind law-and-order mess, TVK now cleaning it up

V.Srivatsal@timesofindia.com

TAKING ON RIVALS: TN CM Joseph Vijay termed AIADMK as an "irrelevant force"

Trichy: Chief minister C Joseph Vijay on Monday defended his 20-day-old govt, accusing the opposition of unfairly blaming it for the 'law and order mess left behind by the previous DMK regime'. He accused DMK and AIADMK of conspiring to prevent TVK from govt and dismissed allegations of horse-trading by TVK. While ridiculing AIADMK as an irrelevant force, Vijay said Tamil Nadu's political future would be a direct contest between TVK and DMK.

Addressing a thanksgiving rally at St Joseph's College in Trichy East — a seat which he won but from where he resigned — Vijay said the deterioration in law and order was the result of the failures of previous govt and that his administration was taking corrective measures.

"They keep criticising us over the law and order situation. But what did the so-called 'model govt' do?" he asked at the event, his first public meeting after becoming the CM. "You allowed the drug menace to spread across the state. If it had been tackled in the early stages, would so many girls and women suffer or lose their lives?" he said.

"After all that happened, the blame is now being placed on me," Vijay said.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bengaluru Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-01. Phone: 080-22133370
No. 617/2026-27 Date: 01.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 04/2026-27

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, **No.1 South, No.2 North and Doddaballapura,** Sub Division under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published **for 06 Works (Rs. 120.00 Lakhs to Rs. 450.00 Lakhs).** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. **EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.**
(1) Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **4.00 PM on Dated: 16.06.2026. (2)** The opening of tenders through KPP portal on **Dated: 17.06.2026 at 4.30 PM** or further date and time will be Intimated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer.
DIPR/DD-C.P/924/KSMCA/2026-27

US trade negotiators in Delhi with 3-day talks scheduled to start today

▶ Continued from page 1

Separately, India has questioned the investigations under Section 301 with one related to structural overcapacity in sectors such as solar modules, processed food, steel and aluminium in 15 countries. The second one relates to failure to act against forced labour by several countries.

US trade representative Jamieson Greer is expected to visit India once there is clarity on the new mechanism as the earlier "reciprocal tariffs" imposed by Donald Trump, using emergency provision, were junked after the US Supreme Court termed it illegal. The idea seems to be to keep the text of the treaty ready and once the new tariffs are finalised, the rates will be worked out.

India and US had agreed to an interim framework in early Feb, but had to put it on hold in the wake of the court ruling.

American trade negotiators are in the capital with three-day talks scheduled to start Tuesday.

"...mostly everything is finalised. As you know, US Ambassador Sergio (Gor) said that 99% of the things have been finalised. Discussions are going on about small issues, commas and full stops. While finalising, how will the legal changes that have taken place in the US be reflected in the final agreement, and what kind of changes will be made accordingly. After finalising that, I am fully confident that, with the US, we will conclude the first tranche of the BTA as soon as possible, sign it and start further discussions on how to have a more comprehensive BTA," **Goyal** told reporters.

Venezuela prez likely to visit India this week

Amid India's efforts to diversify its oil supplies, Venezuela's acting President Delcy Rodriguez is likely to visit New Delhi this week, according to official sources. Rodriguez was earlier supposed to visit India for the International Big Cat Alliance meeting, but the event was deferred.

While talking about the US' initiative to sell more energy to India, Secretary of State Marco Rubio had announced that Rodriguez would soon be visiting India. Washington has been encouraging India to buy more from Venezuela. TNN

ATF rates fall 27%, commercial LPG prices increased by ₹42

New Delhi: Public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Monday cut aviation turbine fuel (ATF) prices for international flights by nearly 27%, offering relief to airlines and international travellers, while increasing the price of commercial LPG cylinders by Rs 42, as global energy costs remained volatile amid disrupted supply flows from West Asia, **reports Atul Mathur**.

ATF for international airlines will now cost about $1,103 per kilolitre, down by $409 from $1,511.86 per kilolitre. Rates for international carriers had risen by $76.55 to $1,511.86 per kilolitre on May 1 after more than doubling in April to $1,435.31 per kilolitre.

The prices of domestic LPG cylinders and ATF for domestic flights have remained unchanged. Domestic carriers will continue to pay Rs 1,04,927.18 per kilolitre for ATF, the rate that became effective on April 1.

The 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder, widely used by the hotel and hospitality sector as well as the pharma, polymer, paint, uranium, steel, metal, ceramic and other industries, now costs Rs 3,113.50 in the capital. Prices vary across cities because of differences in local taxes. This is the fourth revision since Feb 28. TNN

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tender & notices

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Place: Bangalore
Date: 01-06-2026 Sd/-
(S.R.Shiva Shankar)
Hon. Gen. Secretary

TENDERS

Union Bank of India
Procurement Department
Union Bank Bhavan, 1st Floor, 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021
Ph-022-45653726

NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR RENEWAL OF GROUP TERM LIFE INSURANCE POLICY

Union Bank of India invited request for proposal (RFP)/Tenders for renewal of Group Term Life Insurance Policy for CASA account holders of the Bank for the period 2026-27 through GeM Portal www.gem.gov.in. The GeM Bid Document no. is **GEM/2026/B/7576311 dated 22.05.2026.** The notice to Tenders is already available on the Bank's website **www.unionbankofindia.bank.in** and Govt. portals **www.eprocure.gov.in** during the period from 22-05-2026 to 16-06-2026. Please visit the above websites for the same. The Bank reserves the right to reject the RFP/ Tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.
Asst. General Manager

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tender & notices

TENDERS

Union Bank of India
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Union Bank Bhavan, 239, Vidhan Bhavan Marg, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021

Tender Notice

Union Bank of India invites e-tenders from vendors for the following items.
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Item/Job Description – RFP for Supply, Installation & Maintenance of UPS through Rate Contract
Date and Time of Tender Publication – 26.05.2026 11:00 hours.
Pre-bid Meeting:04.06.2026 11:00 hours.
Bid End Date / Time – 22.06.2026 16:00 hours.
For other details and downloading of bid document, please visit Government e-Market Place (GeM) portal **https://gem.gov.in** for participation in the Tender.

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I Arpita Milan Ramachandran D/o Milan Paliath Ramachandran, R/o Whitefield Road, Bangalore has changed my name from Arpita Milan Ramachandran to Arpita Milan for all future purposes.

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NALINI SHANIA TIWARI residing at No 414, 8th A Main Road, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore 560043, have changed my name to ADAIRA SIMRAN KAUR vide affidavit dated 01.06.2026 before Notary Uday Kumar. K, Bangalore.

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For Shubham, JEE success was result of perseverance and self-belief

▶ Continued from page 1

In JEE Advanced, a "zone" refers to the regional jurisdiction of one of the IITs that conducts the test and handles administrative processes. A candidate's zone is determined by location of the examination city they choose during registration, not necessarily by their state of residence, or location of school or coaching institute.

Delhi is among seven IIT zones in the country and covers Delhi NCR, Rajasthan, J&K and Ladakh. While Shubham is from Gaya in Bihar, Kabeer lives in Gurgaon and Jatin in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district. Among toppers from Delhi zone, only Darsh Sikka lives in the capital — south Delhi's Kidwai Nagar. Shubham and Kabeer went to Kota for JEE preparations. Jatin prepared in Sikar, Rajasthan, while Darsh attended coaching classes in Delhi.

> Once you decide to achieve something, the **motivation comes from within.** There is a constant urge to prove yourself and keep moving —**Shubham**

For Shubham Kumar, success was the result of perseverance, self-belief and relentless hard work. "It is all about hard work," he said, adding that his achievement was not his alone. "I would also like to give credit to my teachers, who guided me throughout the journey." Kumar said staying determined was crucial during the demanding preparation process. "Once you decide that you have to achieve something, the motivation comes from within. There is a constant urge to prove yourself and keep moving forward," he said.

The same sense of purpose was evident in AIR 2 holder Kabeer Chhillar's journey. Kabeer's interest in science and mathematics developed gradually and gained momentum during the Covid-19 pandemic, when he had more time at home.

"I wanted to do something challenging, so I enrolled in online classes," he said.

Apex court refuses computer-based re-test for NEET-UG

New Delhi: Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant urgent hearing to a PIL seeking computer-based test (CBT) for the June 21 re-examination of NEET-UG, which was held nationwide on May 3 but was scrapped following allegations of question paper leak. A partial-working day bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Aravind Kumar told the petitioner, RJD MP Sudhakar Singh, that similar pleas were dismissed by the SC in the past and posted the matter for hearing in July, thus negating the urgent plea for computer-based NEET-UG re-examination.

When the petitioner's counsel said CBT would minimise the chances of question paper leak, the bench said the authorities were facing challenges in conducting the re-examination within a short timeframe. TNN

CBSE has denied any allegations of wrongdoing

▶ Continued from page 1

The OSM tender controversy escalated after allegations surfaced that eligibility norms and technical criteria were modified across multiple rounds of bidding before Coempt emerged as the successful bidder.

The issue further snowballed after students began reporting blurred answer sheets, missing pages, mismatched scanned copies and repeated glitches during the reevaluation process. Opposition leaders and independent analysts have asked whether procurement conditions were diluted to favour a particular company. The CBSE has denied allegations of wrongdoing and maintained that the contract was awarded strictly under General Financial Rules and established procurement norms.

But the controversy has only deepened, with ethical hackers and cybersecurity researchers flagging vulnerabilities in systems linked to CBSE's digital evaluation infrastructure. Ministry officials said the weaknesses became more serious because CBSE still lacks a comprehensive digital repository architecture for answer sheets and examination records, exposing critical gaps in archival and cybersecurity preparedness.

The ministry has now engaged experts from IITs to plug technological loopholes, audit the re-evaluation portal architecture and strengthen cybersecurity safeguards.

Allies take a dig at Supriya Sule over BJP MLC ticket for in-law Lakhani

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Mumbai: A day after BJP nominated businessman Arun Lakhani, the to-be father-in-law of NCP(SP) MP **Supriya Sule**'s daughter Revati, as its candidate for the upcoming legislative council polls from the Chandrapur-Wardha-Gadchiroli local bodies' constituency, the opposition Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) took a dig at both Supriya and BJP. While Sena UBT's Sanjay Raut said that in future, Lakhani may be made working president of NCP(SP) and demanded its party workers ask questions to Sule about the nomination, Congress's Vijay Waddettiwar said BJP should reveal if it had taken "instructions from the Pawars" before giving a poll ticket to "their in-law".

Lakhani's son Sarang is set to marry Revati Sule.

Lakhani, for his part, said the Pawar family is big in politics, "so their reference will always be there," but he didn't see any contradiction in being nominated by BJP. "They (Pawars) work for their party, but naturally I will be addressed as their in-law," he said.

Sixteen MLC seats from local self-govt bodies in Maharashtra are going to the polls on June 18, and there is one MLC bypoll too.

Wadettiwar criticised BJP, saying it "always needs big businessmen, but local workers are forgotten". Raut said there was nothing peculiar about the nomination of "gentleman" Arun Lakhani as a candidate of BJP as he had always backed RSS.

Raut added that there are many such lawmakers in Parliament from Maharashtra whose roots are in RSS. "Lakhani is not from Congress or NCP (SP). He comes from the list of people in Vidarbha who have backed RSS from the very beginning," he said.

NPS has a new withdrawal option. What you should know

Retirees can also choose structured, market-linked payouts to better manage longevity risk

Preeti.Kulkarni@timesofindia.com

The National Pension System (NPS) landscape has seen several reforms in recent months. After major changes to exit and investment norms last year, the latest reform targets the withdrawal phase.

At present, while at least 20% of the corpus has to be compulsorily used to purchase an annuity, the remaining 80% can either be withdrawn as a lump sum or accessed gradually through the existing systematic lump sum withdrawal (SLW) facility, where subscribers decide the amount and timing of withdrawals.

Now, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has introduced another option for this 80% lump sum portion: Retirement Income Scheme (RIS), with structured withdrawal plan and built-in guardrails aimed at helping retirees make their corpus last longer.

Phased Withdrawal

Under 'RIS Steady', the only variant of the scheme currently available, subscribers are offered orderly exit and regular — monthly, quarterly or annual — payouts through two drawdown options: systematic unit redemption (SUR) and systematic payout rate (SPR), with the latter being the default option. According to the PFRDA, the purpose is to improve cash flow predictability and corpus longevity, thus minimising the risk of the accumulated funds being exhausted before the end of the drawdown period.

The systematic payouts begin once the accumulation phase ends and continue until age 85. RIS Steady provides a predefined withdrawal pathway in which equity exposure shrinks in line with subscribers' advancing age *(see table)*. Subscribers can choose to be invested with their pension fund manager selected during the accumulation phase, or make a switch which is allowed every two years. In the event of a subscriber's death while the systematic withdrawal is in effect, the lump sum, minus scheduled payouts, will be handed over to the beneficiaries.

Why RIS?

Experts say RIS provides retirees with greater flexibility, more stable income and efficient management of their retirement savings.

"It enables the retirees to systematically withdraw pension wealth while allowing the remaining corpus to stay invested. This helps retirees potentially benefit from continued market participation, manage longevity risk more effectively, and create a more customised retirement income stream aligned with their financial needs and life expectancy," according to Vishwajeet Goel, head, PensionBazaar.

Without a structured plan, many might simply park their corpus in fixed deposits or savings accounts — safe, but inadequate against rising costs and longer lifespans. "With life expectancy rising, career spans shortening, and living expenses shooting up, it is becoming extremely difficult to manage living expenses for long retirement phases. The regulator wants retirees to create a structured income stream and avoid exhausting retirement savings too early," says financial adviser Anuj Kesarwani, founder, Zenith Finserve. "RIS gives your money a chance to grow further during retirement," adds Rajesh Khandagale, senior vice president (NPS), KFin Technologies.

SLW Vs RIS

But why RIS when SLW — where subscribers can make automated, regular withdrawals from this component of their corpus — already exists?

"SLW is a way to withdraw money, while RIS is a thoroughly designed scheme with data-backed calculations which will make sure that the retirement corpus lasts long. RIS will manage pension payouts while making sure that the corpus can take care of the longevity risk," says Sumit Shukla, MD and CEO, Axis Pension.

The objective is to strike a balance between excess withdrawals, over-conservatism and to inculcate discipline instead. "Many retirees struggle to find the right balance after retirement. Some withdraw money too aggressively in the early years and later worry about running out of savings. Others become too conservative, failing to use their retirement corpus properly. One of the biggest advantages of RIS over the existing SLW option is that it may help bring better discipline to retirement withdrawals," adds Kesarwani.

SUR Or SPR: Take Your Pick

Once you opt for RIS, you can select either systematic unit redemption (SUR) or systematic payout rate (SPR) as drawdown options, the latter being the default plan.

"In SUR, the number of units withdrawn remains fixed, but the monthly income fluctuates because net asset value (NAV) changes with market performance," says Goel. So, rising markets can increase payout value, falling markets can reduce it, and residual corpus can also vary significantly over time. SUR entails redeeming a fixed number of units, while the payout rate remains fixed in the case of SPR.

"Under SPR, retirees receive periodic payouts from their retirement corpus based on a pre-defined age-linked payout rate prescribed by the PFRDA. The SPR is fixed for 12 months at a time and is recalculated each year on the subscriber's birthday, based on the remaining drawdown period through age 85. As the retiree ages, the payout rate gradually increases," explains Goel.

The periodic payout is calculated on the market value of the remaining retirement corpus at the annual reset date (the subscriber's birth date). "Since the corpus continues to remain invested during the drawdown phase, payouts remain market-linked and may rise or fall depending on investment performance," he adds.

Ascertain The Suitability

While the reforms intend to make the RIS more retiree-friendly, some less financially-savvy retirees might find the multitude of options overwhelming.

"For many people, NPS itself already feels difficult to fully understand because it involves multiple asset classes, annuity decisions, taxation rules and withdrawal structures. RIS adds another layer to this process through structured payout mechanisms and retirement income options," according to Kesarwani.

Risk-averse investors should note that the returns are market-linked, which will affect payouts. These are not guaranteed or secure, unlike, say, annuity or even fixed deposits. "RIS is likely to be more relevant for investors who are comfortable with market fluctuations and prefer keeping their corpus invested in equities and bonds for potentially higher, inflation-beating returns. Others (risk-averse subscribers) may prefer guaranteed income options," says Khandagale.

On the other hand, those willing to take higher risks may find the maximum equity exposure of 35% inadequate. The decision to choose between lump sum withdrawal, RIS Steady or SLW boils down to your risk appetite, ability to manage withdrawals, objective — inflation-beating returns versus guaranteed payouts — and supplementary sources of retirement income.

Retirement Income Scheme (RIS)

Systematic Unit Redemption (SUR)
Same number of units redeemed, but payout can vary based on market value

Systematic Payout Rate (SPR)
Payout remains fixed, but the number of units redeemed changes based on market value

How RIS Asset Allocation Works

(All figures in %)	Asset class E (equity)	Asset class C (corporate debt)	Asset class G (G-sec)
Up to 60 years	35	10	55
65 years	25	15	60
70 years	15	20	65
75 years	10	20	70
80 years & above	10	15	75

Long-duration bond funds: Is it time to dump them?

Sanket.Dhanorkar@timesofindia.com

Bond yields are starkly reflecting the chaos and uncertainty around the world. The yield on the 30-year US treasury bond recently jumped to 5.2%, its highest since 2007. In India, the yield on the benchmark 10-year govt bond has risen from 6.6% to 7% in three months. Long-term yields rise when investors demand a higher return for holding bonds as compensation for the loss of purchasing power from higher expected inflation. The West Asia conflict and the continued blockade of the Strait of Hormuz have become severely destabilising, stoking global inflation risks.

Positioning For The Future: From Rate Cuts To Rate Hikes

When the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) initiated rate cuts in early 2025, bonds seemed set for a prolonged spell of gains — when interest rates fall, bond prices rise. But after front-loading rate cuts by June, it hinted at limited room for more cuts. The RBI ended 2025 with a cumulative easing of 125 basis points (bps). It has since kept rates steady.

Kunal Valia, founder and compliance officer of StatLane, a Sebi-registered research analyst, says, "Going forward, a combination of domestic and global factors is likely to keep bond yields elevated and limit the scope for any meaningful decline."

Valia reckons bond yields will remain broadly range-bound, albeit with a mild upward bias. The 10-year govt bond yield is likely to trade in the 6.9-7.3% range over the coming quarters.

Experts suggest rate hikes could happen sooner than expected. Vishal Goenka, cofounder, Indiabonds.com, says, "The RBI is likely to hike rates as well imminently." Suyash Choudhary, head of fixed income, Bandhan MF, expects hikes of 50-75 bps over the course of the rest of this fiscal year.

What To Do Now

Given the volatility and uncertainty stemming from macro factors, Goenka maintains that a higher allocation to fixed income would help investors buffer against economic slowdowns. Before the war began, bond markets globally were still hopeful of rate cuts by central banks. The length of the disruption has forced a rethink among investors and fund managers alike.

Specifically, taking duration risk is turning unfavourable. This refers to moving to longer tenure bonds, which are more sensitive to interest rates. After initially adding duration risk on the market's aggressive pricing on rate hikes, Bandhan MF has shifted its stance. "We have again gone underweight duration across a host of our funds (subject to individual mandates and positionings)," says Choudhary.

The absence of a clear and sustained rate-cut cycle has reduced the effectiveness of aggressive duration strategies, making accrual-oriented portfolios better suited to this phase, Axis MF observed in a note.

Valia adds, "For investors, short-duration funds, corporate bond funds and medium-term debt funds focused on the 2-4 year maturity bucket remain suitable to build a robust accrual-oriented fixed income portfolio." For investors with a 2-3 year investment horizon, Axis MF suggests that a short-to-medium-duration, accrual-oriented approach, complemented by income-plus-arbitrage strategies, is appropriate.

On the credit side, selective exposure to high-quality issuers remains favourable. AA+ and AAA-rated corporate bonds continue to offer attractive spreads over comparable govt securities, Valia observes. However, he cautions against moving excessively down the credit curve purely in pursuit of higher yields.

The rise in US bond yields presents another option. US treasury bond funds earned outsized gains in the past year. Valia maintains that US treasury bond funds continue to offer a reasonable opportunity, particularly at the short end of the curve (1 to 3-year treasuries), where yields remain attractive with relatively low duration risk.

BONDS: TIME TO REPOSITION PORTFOLIOS

A storm is coming
- Ongoing West Asia conflict fuels inflation concerns
- Weakening rupee and poor monsoon also add to worries
- Anxiety reflected in higher bond yields
- Rate easing cycle appears firmly over
- Rate hikes could happen sooner than expected

Where to invest now
- Taking duration risk is turning unfavourable
- Accrual-oriented portfolios better suited for this phase
- Short-duration funds, corporate bond funds, medium-term debt funds focused on 2-4 year maturity bucket
- Selective exposure to high-quality issuers remains favourable
- US treasury bond funds continue to offer a reasonable opportunity

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ASK THE EXPERTS

My son is an OCI card-holder. We want to buy a property in Bengaluru. Should this be bought in his name or should we buy jointly with him, so that he can sell it later? — *Elwin Fernandez*

An Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card-holder can legally purchase residential property in India in own name. For the smoothest exit, it is recommended that your son buys the property solely in his name, using funds from a Non-Resident External (NRE) account or through direct foreign remittance. This creates a clear foreign investment trail, allowing him to repatriate the original investment amount without the restrictions often associated with local Indian funds. While joint ownership with a resident Indian is possible for administrative ease, it can complicate the repatriation process. If the resident co-owner contributes to the payment, that portion of the sale proceeds becomes subject to the USD 1 million annual repatriation limit.

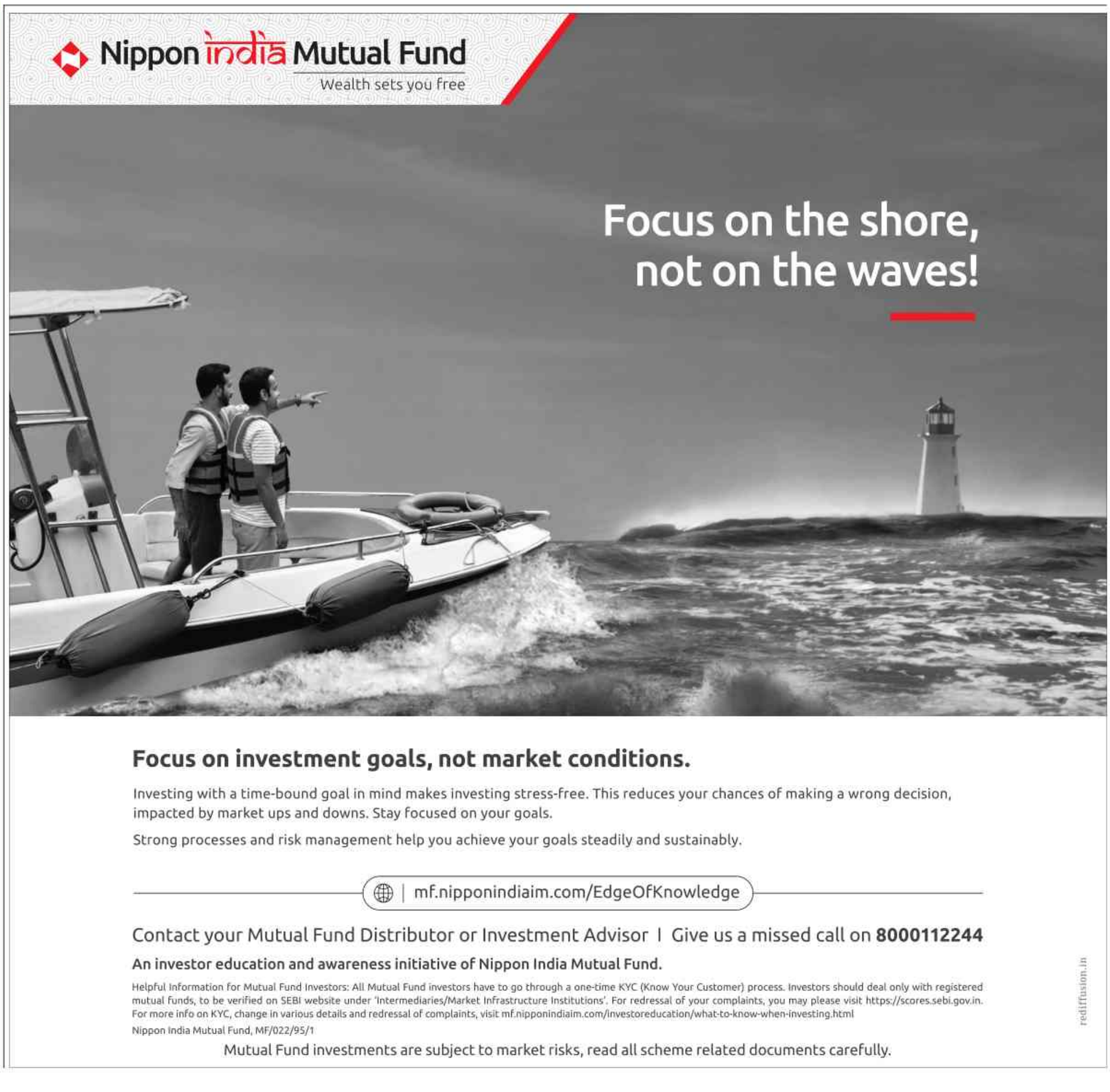
Vikash Jain
Co-founder, Share Samadhan

A 76-year-old wishes to make a one-time investment in the names of his grandchildren (aged 9 and 4). He would like the amount to be available to his grandson at 21 and to his granddaughter at 18. Please suggest options. —*Muralidharan Subrahmanyam*

As a grandparent, you can invest in mutual funds for your grandchildren. In India, the process is well-defined but requires coordination with the parents who will act as guardians/custodians. You cannot claim an income tax deduction for investments made in the name of your grandchildren. The good news is that any amount of money gifted by grandparents to their grandchildren is exempt from gift tax. You have an investment time horizon of 12 to 14 years, which is long enough to take risk and maximise returns. You will not be able to maximise on the returns with minimal risk. Here are 3 options for you: pure equity mutual funds portfolio consisting of 2-3 flexi cap funds (high risk, high returns); hybrid mutual funds portfolio consisting of 2-3 dynamic asset allocation funds (moderate risk, moderate returns); and, 50% pure equity and 50% hybrid mutual funds portfolio. My recommendation would be to go with the first option which will help in maximising the returns.

Rushabh Desai, Founder, Rupee With Rushabh Investment Services

Please send your queries to *toiwealthplus@timesofindia.com*, mentioning your full name and city of residence.



25001/282/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com
Letter No. 1760 Date: 01.06.2026

1st Corrigendum

In Continuation to this office bid identification No. NCB-04/ RWCRGDA/2026-2027 invited vide this office letter No-1569 dated.12.05.2026 partial modification of TCN has been made as follows:

Sl.No.	Item	Time schedule as per Original TCN	Time schedule as per Corrigendum Notice
1	Availability of tender online for bidding	Dt.22.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to Dt.09.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Extended from Dt.22.05.2026 at 5.00 P.M. up to 5.00 PM of Dt 17.06.2026
2	Date & time of seeking tender clarification if any	Dt.08.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.16.06.2026 Up to 5.00 P.M.
3	Date & time of opening of tender (Technical Bid)	Dt.10.06.2026 At 11.00 A.M.	Dt.18.06.2026 At 11.00 A.M.
4	Date & time of opening of tender (Price Bid)	Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders	Will be intimated later on to the successful bidders

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Rayagada
OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0011

25001/283/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA
Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

Letter No. 1751 **Date: 01.06.2026**

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender/ NCB-06 / RWCRGDA / 2026-27

In partial modification to the above Bid Identification with reference to the Letter No. 18845, dtd. 21.05.2026 of the Chief Engineer (PMGSY), Rural Works, Odisha, Bhubaneswar for Online receipt of the Tender Paper Cost & EMD in the Standard Bidding Document (SBD) for PMGSY Tenders, the Tender Paper Cost & EMD are to be transferred by the bidders through Online only for the works under PMGSY-IV as stated below:

Sl No	Corrigendum for	Provision kept earlier:	Now modified with:
1.	Tender Paper Cost & EMD as per Sl. No. 3 & 5 of TCN	The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in shape of Fixed Deposit Receipt / Term Deposit Receipt pledged in favour of concerned R.W. Superintending Engineer / Executive Engineer and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provision of Clause 4.4B(a) (ii) of ITB with Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada // Superintending Engineer, R.W.Division, Gunupur on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand (17.06.2026 upto 12.00 Noon).	1. Tender Paper Cost : The bidder shall transfer the Tender Paper Cost @ Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten Thousand Only) per set (Non-refundable) through Online only as per the procedure mentioned in the DTCN for 94 Nos. of works out of total 99 Nos. Bidder shall transfer the Tender Paper Cost @ Rs. 6,000/- (Rupees Six Thousand Only) per set (Non-refundable) through Online only for 05 (Five) Nos. of Works i.e Work Sl. No. 62, 70, 72, 82 & 99. 2. EMD : The bidder shall transfer the EMD through Online only @ 2% of the amount as specified for the work in the table Col No. 10 in the Annexure of NIT. 3. Online Tendering Process: The entire tendering process shall be completed through Online mode with no Offline submission of Tender Paper Cost & EMD.
2.	Date of availability of tender	19.05.2026 to 10.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM.	4. 01.06.2026 to 22.06.2026 upto 5.30 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid.	11.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon	5. 23.06.2026 at 12.00 Noon

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer
RW Circle, Rayagada

OIPR-25001/25196/1/26-27/0012

कार्यालय- नगर पालिका परिषद्, नैनीताल

पत्रांक :- 276/XV-18 दिनांक : 01.06.2026

अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

सर्वसाधारण/इच्छुक फर्म /व्यक्ति को सूचित किया जाता है कि नैनीताल नगर पालिका परिषद, नैनीताल सीमान्तर्गत स्थापित लेकब्रिज तल्लीताल, बारापत्थर टोल तथा फॉसी गधेरा टोल प्रवेश शुल्क वसूली ठेका वर्ष 15 जून 2026 से 31 मार्च 2028 हेतु निम्नानुसार ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की गयी है। निविदा में प्रतिभाग करने हेतु www.uktenders.gov.in पर नियम व शर्तें देखी एवं अपलोड की जा सकती है।

क्रम सं.	कार्य का नाम	ई-निविदा संख्या	ई-निविदा
01	नगर पालिका परिषद, नैनीताल सीमान्तर्गत स्थापित लेकब्रिज तल्लीताल बारापत्थर टोल तथा फॉसी गधेरा टोल प्रवेश शुल्क वसूली ठेका वर्ष 15 जून 2026 से 31 मार्च 2028	2026_NPNTL_96150_1	www.uktenders.gov.in

अतः इच्छुक फर्म /व्यक्ति/ निविदादाता ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित कर सकते है, जो कि निविदा फार्म में उल्लेखित विवरण के अनुसार शासन द्वारा गठित कमेटी के समक्ष निविदादाताओं की उपस्थिति में खोले जायेगें। तकनीकि निविदा खोले जाने के पश्चात् ही वित्तीय निविदा खोली जाएगी तथा तकनीकि निविदा में सफल हुए निविदादाताओं की ही वित्तीय निविदा खोली जायेगी। किसी भी निविदा को स्वीकृत/अस्वीकृत करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरीकर्ताओं के पास सुरक्षित होगा।

अध्यक्ष
नगर पालिका परिषद्, नैनीताल।

अधिशासी अधिकारी,
नगर पालिका परिषद्, नैनीताल ।

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office : PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identification No. U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website : www.pspcl.in (Contact 9646118773)

Tender Enquiry No.: QQ-4040/PO-T /26-27/CE-MM

Chief Purchase Officer/MM, Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, 2nd Floor, Multi Storey Building, The Mall, PSPCL invites e-tender of 8000 No. Three Phase 40KVA, ISI Marked, oil immersed, CRGO/Amorphous core, Aluminium wound, distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specifications & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1 (2014) & IS 2026 (with latest amendments). For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 02.06.2026 onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C605/26, DPR/Pb.: 1079/12/2026-27/11804

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Chief Engineer (Cauvery Headworks),
8th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G Road, Bangalore - 560 009.

BWSSB/CE(CH)TE/TA-01/110/115/2026-27 **Date: 30.05.2026**

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tender in two cover tender system from eligible tenderers for the **construction of new chlorine building and installation of 40 Kg/Hr chlorine system with chlorine neutralization systems coming under jurisdiction of AEE (K-O&M)-2-2 at Tataguni**

Amount put to tender: **Rs. 144.55 Lakhs**. EMD: **Rs. 2.2 Lakhs.**

Last date and time for reciept of tenders will be on **16.06.2026** upto **15:00 hrs**. The technical bids will be opened on **18.06.2026** at **16:00 hrs**. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

Sd/-
DIPR/CP/MIA/913/2026-27 **Chief Engineer (Cauvery Headworks)**

MOIL LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
Registered & Corporate Office:
MOIL Bhavan, 1-A, Katol Road, Nagpur – 440013, Maharashtra
CIN: L99999MH1962GOI012398

GLOBAL TENDER NOTICE

Tenders in three parts are invited from bonafide and experienced contractors for the following works.

Sr. No.	Description & Place of Work	Completion Period	EMD Amount (INR in Crore)	Estimated Cost (Approx.) (INR in Crores)
1	Design, Construction, Furnishing & Equipping of Third Vertical Shaft on TURNKEY BASIS at **Chikla Mine** of MOIL Ltd. Tumsar Tehsil, Bhandara District, Maharashtra, India. Pin Code - 441907 Tender No: MOIL/MOIL LIMITED/ Project/2/2026-27/ET/22	48 Months	0.50	208.17 plus GST as applicable

For details of Global Tender Document and schedule of e-tender, visit e-tender website **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn/** (for e-bid) & MOIL website **https://moil.nic.in** an Indian Government's Central Public Procurement (CPP) Portal **(https://eprocure.gov.in)**. **Corrigendum**, if any, shall be uploaded on the above-mentioned websites and shall not be published in the Newspapers.

Executive Director (P&D), MOIL Limited

◆ हर एक काम देश के नाम ◆
◆ MOIL - Adding Strength to Steel ◆

LUCKNOW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
T.N. Road, Lalbagh, Lucknow - 226001 (U.P.)
Website : www.lmc.up.nic.in

NOTICE FOR INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest are invited from Experienced Agency for Selection of Technology & Sustainable operation of Horticulture Waste processing plant of 100 TPD and more with Operation and Maintenance for 10+5 Years in Lucknow under Lucknow Municipal Corporation.

Lucknow Municipal Corporation hereby invites EOI from experienced Companies/Firms for Selection of Technology & Sustainable operation of Horticulture Waste processing plant of 100 TPD and more with Operation and Maintenance for 10+5 Years in Lucknow under Lucknow Municipal Corporation. The EOI document can be downloaded from the UP-Government NIC e-tender website i.e., https://etender.up.nic.in/ & as per below given time schedule:

EOI Ref. No.	D/248/EE/26-27 Date: 01.06.2026
EOI Download Date	Date: 02.06.2026
Pre-Offer Discussion date and Place	Date: 10.06.2026 at SBM Hall near Fun Republic Mall Time: 12:00 PM
Last date and time for submission of queries	Queries to be submitted by 5:00 PM till 11.06.2026 through envengnnlko@gmail. com
EOI last date of submission	Date: 22.06.2026 Time: 04:00 PM
EOI opening date	Date: 22.06.2026 Time: 05:00 PM

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER

25001/280/2627

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, Bhawanipatna

1st CORRIGENDUM NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO.BPT/ONLINE-03/2026-27
No. 1055 Dt. 29/05/2026

The 1st Corrigendum to the TCN of Bid Identification No. BPT/Online-03/2026-27 and this office letter No.931 dt.15.05.2026, the revised date and time are as below

Sl No.	Item	Time schedule as per Original TCN	Time Schedule as per corrigendum notice
1.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	28.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 11.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 24.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
2.	Date and time of seeking tender clarification if any	28.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 10.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 23.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
3.	Date & time of opening of tender	12.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	25.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Sd/-
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
Rural Works Circle
BHAWANIPATNA
OIPR-25001/25102/1/26-27/0008

25001/279/2627

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, Bhawanipatna

1st CORRIGENDUM NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO.BPT/ONLINE-04/2026-27
No. 1063 Dt. 29/05/2026

The 1st Corrigendum to the TCN of Bid Identification No. BPT/Online-04/2026-27 and this office letter No.949 dt.18.05.2026, the revised date and time are as below

Sl No.	Item	Time schedule as per Original TCN	Time Schedule as per corrigendum notice
1.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	26.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 10.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 24.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
2.	Date and time of seeking tender clarification if any	26.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 09.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 23.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
3.	Date & time of opening of tender	11.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	25.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Sd/-
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
Rural Works Circle
BHAWANIPATNA
OIPR-25001/25102/1/26-27/0007

25001/278/2627

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, Bhawanipatna

2nd CORRIGENDUM NOTICE BID IDENTIFICATION NO.BPT/ONLINE-02/2026-27
No. 1057 Dt. 29/05/2026

The 2nd Corrigendum to the TCN of Bid Identification No. BPT/Online-02/2026-27 and this office letter No.895 dt.07.05.2026, the revised date and time are as below

Sl No.	Item	Time schedule as per Original TCN	Time Schedule as per corrigendum notice
1.	Availability of tender Online for bidding	22.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 09.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 24.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
2.	Date and time of seeking tender clarification if any	22.05.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 09.06.2026 upto 5.00 P.M.	09.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M. to 23.06.2026 up to 5.00 P.M.
3.	Date & time of opening of tender	10.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.	25.06.2026 at 11.00 A.M.

Sd/-
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
Rural Works Circle
BHAWANIPATNA
OIPR-25001/25102/1/26-27/0006

25001/285/2627

E.Mail - serwcirclesbp@yahoo.com

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, SAMBALPUR
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. PMGSY ONLINE RWCSBP-09 / 2026-27

1. Name of the Work :- Road Works
2. Total No. of works :- 02 nos Road work
3. Estimated cost :- Rs.73.14 lakhs to Rs.225.80 lakhs
4. Class of contractor :- 'B' & 'A' Class
5. Other details :- As mentioned in DTCN

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur.	**PMGSY ONLINE RWCSBP-09/2026-27**	**05.06.2026 11.00 A.M**	**24.06.2026 05.00 P.M**

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Rural Works Circle, Sambalpur
OIPR-25001/25091/1/26-27/0011

KERALA CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRI VALUE CHAIN MODERNISATION PROJECT (KERA)

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

The Project Director, Kerala Climate Resilient Agri Value Chain Modernisation (KERA) Project (The World Bank Project ID No.: P178254) invites proposals for the following online tender from eligible consultants :

1.Tender ID: 2026_KERA_853230_1
Consulting services: Technical Support Agency for selection and handholding of 250 Agri & Food SMEs in the state of Kerala
Last date of submission of Proposal is 30th June, 2026, 4:00 PM
The tender Document can be downloaded from e-tender Kerala portal starting from **1st June, 2026, 10:00 AM**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA,
Zilla Panchayath, Vijayanagara,
Office of Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hospet Vijayanagara District.

No.: EE/RDWS&SD/HPT/O&M/E-Proc Tender/TS/2026-27/193 **Dated:29-05-2026.**

E-tender Notification-01/2026-27.
(KTTP Act 2000)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Hosapete hereby invites the tender for FY-2026-27 M V S O&M works in Huvinhadagali Taluk of Vijayanagara District through e-procurement. The information regarding tenders will be made available in (www. kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Website. The period to receive the tender from eligible bidders is from 29-05-2026 to 15-06-2026 at 5.00PM, Pre Bid Meeting Date:10-06-2026, and date of opening of technical bid is on 16-06-2026 at 5.05 PM, opening of Financial bid is on 19-06-2026 at 11.00 AM, Executive Engineer RWS&S Division Hospet Vijayanagara District For further more information contact above said Office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
RDW & S Division, Hospet.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/105

13001/710/2627

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
Progress Through Partnership for Better Bhubaneswar
SWACHH SURVEKSHAN

No. 31559 /Date : 29.05.2026
Health section
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

On behalf of the Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), Additional Commissioner, BMC invites Request for Proposal (RFP) for **"SELECTION OF AGENCY TO PROVIDE MANPOWER FOR VECTOR CONTROL ACTIVITIES IN BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION."** The detail RFP document can be seen and downloaded from BMC website **http://bmc.gov.in** from 30.05.2025 (11.00 AM) onwards.

For queries, interested parties may contact the office of Additional Commissioner, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation at ICOMC Tower at Satya Nagar, Infront of Satya Nagar Kali Temple on Janpath, Unit-IX, Bhubaneswar- 751022, Odisha, India.

1. Schedule of Events :

Period of availability of Tender Document in BMC website	From Dt.30.05.2026 to Dt.10.06.2026 (till 3:00 PM)
Pre-bid meeting (Physical & Virtual)	On Dt. 04.06.2026 (Time 12.30 PM) (4th floor Conference Hall of ICOMC Tower)
Last date and time of receiving queries to be sent to email id: **dc-sanitation@bmc.gov.in** and **swmpmu@gmail.com** (Format for sending queries attached in Annexure-X)	Dt. 05.06.2026 (by 5:00 PM)
Last date and time for submission of bids	10.06.2026 (till 3:00 PM)
Date and time for technical bid opening	10.06.2026 (4:00 PM)
Financial bid Opening	Will be Communicated by BMC
Address for submission of Bid	To The Dy. Commissioner (Sanitation) Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation, 4th Floor, BMC-ICOMC Building, Satya Nagar, Opposite Satya Nagar Kali Temple, Bhubaneswar- 751 022

2. All amendments, Clarifications, time extension etc. will be uploaded in the website only interested parties should regularly visit the above website to keep themselves updated.

By Order of Commissioner, BMC
Sd/-
Additional Commissioner
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
OIPR - 13001/13002/1/26-27/0039

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division Ballari
Email: ee_pwdbellary@yahoo.com Telephone No: 08392 -266123

No: EE/PWD/BD/TS-5/2026-27 /1133 **Dated :29-05-2026**

Short term Tender Notification (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Public works Department Division, Ballari invites the tenders for the works detailed in the table from the eligible contractors registered in Karnataka Public Works Department, through KPP- portal. Two cover tender procedure as per KTPP Act shall be followed. The tender documents can be downloaded through the web-site https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ For any additional information the tenderers may contact the office of the undersigned during office working hours.**TABLE**

Sl No	Details of Works	Amount of Estimate (Rs. in Lakhs)
1)	PWD/2026-27/BR/WORK_INDENT36141	500.00
2)	PWD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT35240	300.00
3)	PWD/2026-27/BD/WORK_INDENT36401	200.00

Note : Any changes either in tender dates or any other conditions, tenderers can view in KPP_Procurement Portal.

1)Last dates for queries (through KPP –portal): **04-06-2026 upto 12.00 Hours**
2)Last date for submission of tenders through KPP -portal: **10-06-2026 upto 16.00 Hours**
3) Date and time of opening of Technical Bids: **11-06-2026 at 16.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Ballari.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Ballari.
DIPR/Ballari/2026-27/KSMCA/RO No/196

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - SWM Division MC			
1.	Shed Extension at 300 TPD Wet Waste Plant Dadumajra, Chandigarh- (Re-invite). **Approximate Amount : Rs. 2,42,31,884/-** **Earnest Money : Rs. 4,84,640/-** **Time Period : 09 Months** **Tender Fee : Rs. 5,000/-**	02.06.2026 at 9:00 A.M To 12.06.2026 at 11:00 A.M	12.06.2026 at 11:30 A.M
2.	Shed of extension of 10 TPD Segregation Plant Dadumajra, Chandigarh (Re-invite) **Approximate Amount : Rs. 1,27,36,826/-** **Earnest Money : Rs. 2,54,740/-** **Time Period : 06 Months** **Tender Fee : Rs. 3,000/-**	02.06.2026 at 09:00 A.M To 09.06.2026 at 11:00 A.M	09.06.2026 at 11:30 A.M
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 1			
3.	Re-Carpeting of Various Roads and Parkings under Road Sub Division No.-12, M.C., Chandigarh (2026-2027) (Community Center Parking Sector 49,V-6 Road Sector 49C, V-5 Road Sector 49 A&B and C&D, Internal Road of STP Plant and Ind. Area Ph.II) (Re-invite). Capital Head : Improvement of Roads/Parking Places & Infrastructure Facilities. Est. Cost : Rs. 419.37 Lacs EMD : Rs. 8,38,745/- Time Limit : 06 Months	03.06.2026 To 10.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	10.06.2026 at 12.00 noon
4.	Re-Carpeting of V-5 Road of Sector 38 C and D and V6 Road of S/37B and D Sector 38-B and D Sector 39-C and D and Sector 38 West Pocket B, Housing Board Colony S/55 and Market Parking of Sector 38 and S/40C, Chandigarh. (Re-invite). Capital Head : Improvement of Roads/Parking Places & Infrastructure Facilities. Est. Cost : Rs. 543.71 Lacs EMD : Rs. 10,87,421/- Time Limit : 06 Months	03.06.2026 To 17.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	17.06.2026 at 12.00 noon
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 3			
5.	Providing and Fixing 60 mm Paver Blocks in Internal Blocks at Rehabilitation Colony, Dhanas, Chandigarh. Capital Head- Basic Amenities/Services in Rehabilitation Colonies (EWS). Est. Cost : Rs. 220.23 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs.4.41,856/- Time Limit : 06 Months	01.06.2026 To 09.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	09.06.2026 at 15.00 PM
6.	Construction of Pedestrian Path with PCC tiles on internal roads of rehabilitation EWS Colony of 8448 flats zone 3 & 4 Dhanas, Chandigarh. Capital Head : Amenities/Services in Rehabilitation Colonies. Est. Cost : Rs. 166.79 Lacs Earnest Money : Rs.3,33,579/- Time Limit : 06 Months	01.06.2026 To 09.06.2026 upto 12.00 noon	09.06.2026 at 15.00 PM

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
SWM Division, Room No. 612, 6th Floor, New Deluxe Building, MC Sector-17, Chandigarh email id : mcc.swm2020@gmail.com, Roads Division No.1, Room No.304, M.C. Chandigarh (O) 0172-5021626 and Roads Division No.3, Room No.311, Ph. 0172-5021482 xenroad3.mcc@chd.nic.in

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER NAGAR NIGAM, BAREILLY

NIT NO.: CMGRID/ 72/ C.E./N.N.B./2026-27 **Date: 01.06.2026**

E- Procurement Re-Tender Notice

Municipal Commissioner, Nagar Nigam, Bareilly Invites percentage-rate bids on http://etender.up.nic.in from eligible bidders for the following package under the CM-GRID Scheme.

Sl No.	Nagar Nigam	Package No.	Included Roads	Length of Roads (KM)	Estimated Cost Excluding GST (Rs. Lakh)		Total Estimated Cost of Work (Rs. in Lakh)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs. in Lakh)	Duration of Construction Work (in Months)	Tender Fee Including GST
					Construction Cost	Maintance Cost for 5 Years				
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
01	Nagar Nigam Bareilly	BLY/ CMG 2025-26/ PKG-1	Integrated Development and upgradation work from Shyamganj Bridge to Maharishi Kashyap Square.	1.50	2520.12	44.91	2565.02	51.30	15	41300.00

Sl No.	Events	Date/ Time
1	Availability of tender documents on E-tender in E-Tendering portal	Date 02.06.2026, Time: 03:00 PM
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date & Venue	08.06.2026, 03:00 PM at 3rd Floor, URIDA, Sector-7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow- 226010
3	Last date of Submission of e-Bids on E-Tender Portal	11.06.2026, 03:00 PM
4	Date of Opening of tender	11.06.2026, 04:00 PM
5	Tender ID	CMGRIDS

The Bareilly Municipal Corporation reserves the right to issue addendums/corrigendum online as per ITV Clause 10 which will not be published in any newspaper. All prospective bidders are advised to regularly monitor the e-tendering portal.
For more information, please log on to http://etender.up.nic.in and download the bid document.
The Security deposit and tender form price for the said tender must be paid through the payment Link available on the Bareilly Municipal Corporation website- https://bareillye-tender.com and the receipt must be enclosed in an envelope.
Any Questions regarding the tender may be sent to the following e-mail address up to 24 hours prior to the scheduled pre-bid meeting, until 08.06.2026 so that relevant replies can be presented at the meeting to be held on that date chiefengineernnb@gmail.com and urida.qoup@gmail.com
No Question / complaint regarding the tender will be considered after 09.06.2026, Time 3:00 PM.

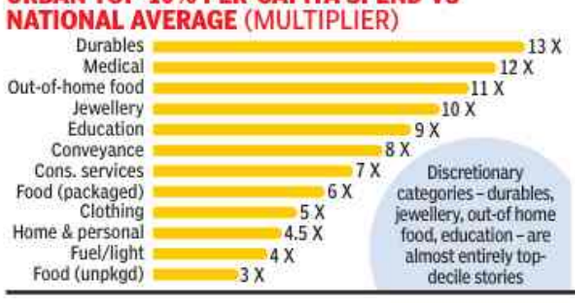
(CHIEF ENGINEER)
NAGAR NIGAM BAREILLY

TIMES BUSINESS

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

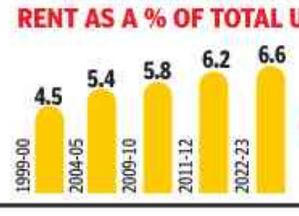
Consumption Skewed: Top 10% Urban India Spends Multiples of the National Average

URBAN TOP-10% PER-CAPITA SPEND VS NATIONAL AVERAGE (MULTIPLIER)



Urban Rent Went From a Footnote to a Real Item

RENT AS A % OF TOTAL URBAN HOUSEHOLD SPENDING



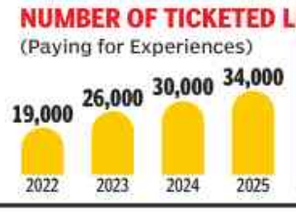
And What's Actually Happened In The Cities

Sector 150, Noida	₹15,500 → ₹25,000 +63%
Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru	₹21,000 → ₹35,000 +67%
Mulund, Mumbai	₹38,600 → ₹49,700 +29%
Top-6 metros (FY25)	YoY → Q2 2025 +30%

Concerts. Premieres. The 'Going-out' Boom

NUMBER OF TICKETED LIVE EVENTS HELD IN INDIA

(Paying for Experiences)



1.3Cr People queued for popular international music concert – only 1.5 lakh available

₹322Cr Ticket sales in 3 Ahmedabad shows alone

+682% Growth in tier-2 city live events in 2024

₹20,861 Cr Size of India's live events industry, growing 15% YoY

Source: MOSPI HCES 2022-23; estimates of urban top-10% over-indexing on consumption categories; BookMyShow 2024-25 trends report

'USFDA nod for Zaynich a major boost'

Rupali.Mukherjee
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: The US Food and Drug Administration's (USFDA) approval of Wockhardt's Zaynich, a first-in-class 'breakthrough antibiotic' for severe drug-resistant infections, opens up a significant global market opportunity, the company's founder chairman Habil Khorakiwala told **TOI** on Monday.

Zaynich, a combination of cefepime and zidebactam, is the first novel drug discovered and developed in India to secure this milestone, with annual peak sales estimated at over $1.5 billion, he said. The achievement demonstrates the country's capability to develop innovative medicines and would inspire research here, he added.

Wipro picks more stake in Aggne for $28.5 million

Bengaluru: Wipro is acquiring an additional 20% stake in US-based Aggne Global and its affiliate, Aggne Global IT Services, for $28.5 million, strengthening its presence in the insurance technology sector, particularly the property and casualty (P&C) insurance market. The acquisition will enhance Wipro's capabilities in implementing core insurance systems based on Duck Creek Technologies, a leading platform used by P&C insurers. Wipro had acquired a 60% stake in Aggne in 2024, with an option to increase its ownership over time. Following the latest transaction, Wipro will hold an 80% stake in the company. TNN

Singh appointed as Canara Bank's MD and CEO

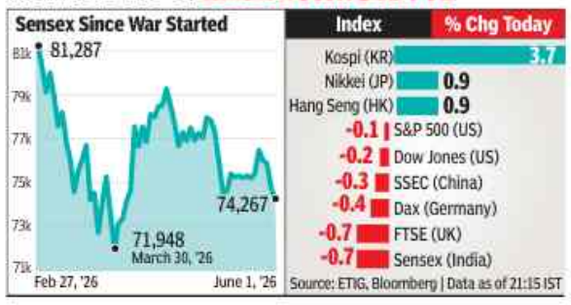
Bengaluru: Canara Bank has appointed **Brajesh Kumar Singh** as its managing director and chief executive officer. Prior to joining Canara Bank, Singh served as executive director of Indian Bank, where he played a key role in driving business growth, and advancing the bank's digital and operational transformation initiatives. His appointment will be effective until April 30, 2029. TNN

Sensex down 2.2k pts in four sessions as Gulf stays on boil

Net Equity Outflow In '26 Exceeds ₹2.5L Cr | Oil Prices Surge

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

MONDAY BLUES: INDEX DOWN 508 PTS



Mumbai: As the West Asia peace talks showed no meaningful progress, and fresh reports of flare-ups between the US and Iran emerged, crude oil prices jumped and weighed on investor sentiment on Dalal Street on Monday. With foreign funds continuing to sell Indian stocks, sensex slid 1,100 points from the day's high to close at 74,267 points, down 508 points on the day.

Foreign funds net sold stocks worth a little over Rs 3,900 crore, which in turn took the total net outflow this year to over the Rs 2.5-lakh-crore mark, data from BSE and NSDL showed. In comparison, during the whole of 2025, the total net selling of stocks by foreign funds was nearly Rs 1.7 lakh crore.

Monday's was the fourth consecutive session of losses for the sensex during which the index has lost 2,222 points or almost 3%.

According to Siddhartha Khemka, of Motilal Oswal Financial Services, the domestic market is expected to remain range-bound with a marginal negative bias in the near term amid persistent foreign portfolio investor (FPI) selling and ongoing uncertainty around global macro developments. With the (Jan-March quarterly) earnings season largely over and India Inc reporting stronger earnings growth, focus is likely to remain on stock-specific opportunities in the midcap space, Khemka said.

Going ahead, the key monitorables for investors will be the RBI's upcoming policy meeting that will conclude on June 5, while textile stocks may remain in focus following govt's cotton import duty waiver, Khemka said.

The day's slide left investors poorer by about Rs 4.3 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 460.7 lakh crore, data showed.

On the positive side, rupee showed signs of stabilisation with the Indian currency closing 1 paise stronger to the dollar at 94.99. However, in late trades in the non-deliverable market it had weakened to trade at 95.17/$.

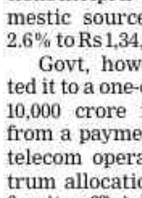
Also in late trades, with reports of flare-ups in the Persian Gulf, Brent crude spiked over 5% to trade near the $96/barrel level. In opening US trades, while Dow Jones index was down about 100 points (0.2%), Nasdaq Composite and S&P 500 were flat.

Meanwhile, the stock price of Zee Entertainment Enterprises jumped 7% in intraday trades on Monday after it announced that it will telecast the upcoming football world cup in India.

Noel's daughter Maya may exit Tata Digital

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The move comes as Tata Digital faces heightened scrutiny from Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata, who has raised concerns about losses at the firm



Mumbai: Amid a sweeping restructuring at Tata Digital, Maya Tata, the daughter of Tata Trusts chairman Noel Tata, is exploring a move out of the company, said people familiar with the matter. Maya, 37, is weighing roles across several Tata Group companies, including Trent and Tata Consumer Products, with people saying she is favouring the listed retailer.

The move comes as Tata Digital faces heightened scrutiny from Noel, who has raised concerns about losses at the business amid a broader stand-off over the reappointment of Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran for a third term. Tata Sons has invested more than Rs 24,000 crore in Tata Digital, which houses BigBasket, Tata Neu, Croma, and Tata 1mg. Tata Neu has seen its headcount cut by more than half as part of the restructuring.

Should she join Trent, Maya would be the second of Noel's three children at the company. Her brother Neville is already with Trent, where he handles the Star Bazaar stores. Noel is the chairman of Trent. Their older sister Leah, 40, is at Indian Hotels, which runs the Taj chain. Unlike Neville and Leah, who have each stayed with a single group company since joining, Maya has moved across businesses beginning her career at Tata Capital before her stint at Tata Digital.

All three siblings sit on the boards of smaller entities within Tata Trusts, the principal shareholder of Tata Sons. Neville, however, also holds a board seat at Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, one of the two main charitable trusts that anchor the group's ownership structure.

Power demand rises nearly 11% in May

New Delhi: Electricity consumption in May rose nearly 11% year-on-year, driven by hot weather conditions prevailing across the country for most of the month, leading to increased use of air-conditioners in domestic and commercial sectors.

Grid India data showed that 165 billion units (BU) of electricity were consumed in May this year, compared with 148.7 BU during same month last year. Consumption rose by over 7% compared with April, which saw 154 BU being consumed. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the number of heatwave days in second half of May was higher than in previous years, resulting in increased demand for electricity.

There were 10 days in May when peak demand exceeded 250 GW. TNN

GST collection growth slows to 3.2% in May

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

LOSING MOMENTUM

New Delhi: Growth in GST collections slowed to 3.2% in May with the mop-up at Rs 1,94,184 crore on account of fall in revenue from domestic transactions. According to latest available data in May -- based on transactions in April -- GST from domestic sources was down 2.6% to Rs 1,34,530 crore.

Govt, however, attributed it to a one-off gain of Rs 10,000 crore in May 2025 from a payment made by a telecom operator for spectrum allocation. Adjusting for it, officials said there was a 9% increase in the overall kitty in May. They asserted that consumption remains strong across segments -- from agriculture to manufacturing, real estate, transport, consumer goods and electronics -- following the rationalisation of the GST structure last Sept.

Unlike most months, officials also shared data on taxable value of goods and services. The taxable value for goods in April was estimated to have increased 27% to over Rs 40 lakh crore, with gold and precious metals leading with a 47% surge to over Rs 5.1 lakh crore. In the case of services, the taxable value was 22% higher at Rs 11.5 lakh crore. IGST on imports too rose over 20% to more than Rs 60,000 crore in May. Coal has the biggest share, soaring nearly five times to Rs 3,749 crore, with memory chips (three-fold) and processing units (5x) too seeing a massive jump.

UPI transactions near ₹30L cr in May, rise 19%

Mumbai: Unified Payments Interface transactions rose to 2,320 crore in May 2026 from 2,235 crore in April while value increased to Rs 29.9 lakh crore from Rs 29 lakh crore, translating into 24% growth in volume and 19% growth in value on a year-on-year basis.

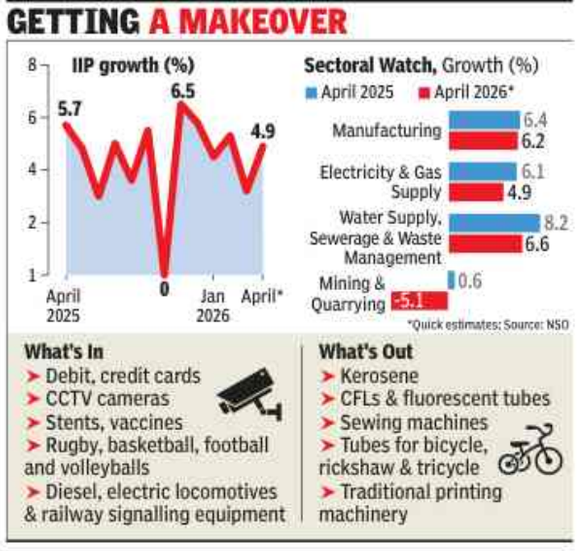
Average daily transactions stood at 74.8 crore with 74.5 crore in April, while average daily value declined to Rs 96,465 crore from Rs 96,766 crore despite the increase in aggregate monthly volume and value. National Electronic Toll Collection transactions rose to 37.5 crore in May from 35.8 crore in April while value increased to Rs 7,308 crore from Rs 7,025 crore, implying month-on-month growth of 4.8% in volume and 4% in value, even as y-o-y volume fell 7% after a 6% decline in April and value rose 3%. TNN

Industrial output growth slows to 4.9% from 5.7%

Mining Contracts In April, Mfg Expands 6.2%, Govt Unveils New Series With Base Yr 2022-23

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

GETTING A MAKEOVER



New Delhi: Industrial production growth slowed to 4.9% in April 2026 from 5.7% a year earlier on account of a contraction in mining and quarrying and slowdown in other sectors. The statistics ministry Monday released the new IIP series, with 2022-23 as the base year (from 2011-12), updating the methodology and broadening the coverage of the activity in the industrial sector.

The new series now has four sub-sectors -- mining (down 5.1% in April), manufacturing (showed 6.2% growth), electricity & gas supply (4.9%) and water supply, sewerage & waste management (6.6%). Manufacturing sector retains the highest weight (76.1% compared with 77.6% earlier) in the new series.

However, sequentially, industrial output grew 4.9% in April, higher than 3.2% in March, driven by strong growth in manufacturing and electricity generation, belying the fear of an immediate negative impact of the West Asia crisis on economy.

"Industrial production could remain subdued in the months ahead. The larger risk, though, is rising costs (as) the energy supply shock has morphed into a price shock," said Dipti Deshpande, principal economist at Crisil. Among use-based categories, as many as five of the six segments witnessed an uptick in their growth rates in April compared to March, barring primary goods, which largely reflects the tepid performance of the mining sector. Notably, capital goods output expanded by double digits (16%) for the sixth consecutive month, while infra/construction goods output rose by 7.1% in the month, suggesting that construction and investment activity continues to remain strong. On the consumer front, durable goods grew 4.3%, while non-durables grew by 2.8%. "Consumer segments remain moderate and the drag from mining points to underlying frictions in resources linked sectors, reinforcing that the supply chain is not operating at full synchronisation. It suggests that firms are expanding output selectively rather than broadly," said Arun Singh, chief economist at Dun & Bradstreet India.

Within electricity and gas supply, the new series provides a break-up of electricity generated through renewable and non-renewable sources.

Nilekani@71: Steering Infosys through 2 critical successions

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Nandan Nilekani turns 71 on Tuesday, and if all goes as per plan, Infosys shareholders will reelect him as non-executive chairman for a third successive term at the company's annual general meeting later this month.

Since his reentry into Infosys in 2017, after the tumultuous period under then CEO Vishal Sikka, things have largely gone as planned for him. And what hasn't gone as per plan – be it the surprising rise in business when Covid struck, the huge fall in business a couple of years later, and the more recent slump in share price in response to agentic AI – have all been industry-wide trends. Even through these periods, Infosys has done reasonably well compared to peers.

Nilekani had said in 2017 that he wanted to make Infosys "boring" again, following the noisy years under Sikka. And in that, he's been eminently successful – no-drama, no-surprises. He brought a steady hand, and together with CEO Salil Parekh – observers say there's great chemistry between the two – has overseen a period of relative stability and growth. That partnership has taken the company's revenue from $10.9 billion in 2017-18 to more than $20 billion in 2025-26, implying a CAGR of 8.3%, while net profit rose from $2.5 billion to $3.3 billion.

This explains why the Board is keen on Nilekani continuing. And Parekh as well.

In his third term, assuming shareholders give the nod, Nilekani will have some very different challenges to deal with though. Infosys' rules require him to step down once he's 75. So he has to find his own successor. The recent appointment of former HUL CEO Nitin Paranjpe as vice-chairman looks like a signal from the Board about what's coming. That appointment is already being seen as strengthening the Board's governance framework and risk oversight.

> I will be having a chairman at whatever point I exit from the scene who will be a non-founder. There is no plan B if I hand it over to somebody and it doesn't work. I can't come back at 75, and I don't think any of these guys (other founders) want to come back either,
> **Nandan Nilekani** | CHAIRMAN, INFOSYS
> *(At Infosys' 40th anniversary celebrations in 2022)*

Nilekani will also have to find a new CEO, because Parekh – who turns 62 on Friday – is already past the retirement age set for executives, and has been continuing in the role with shareholder approvals. Parekh's current term ends next year, but with no formal search process yet initiated, analysts believe he will likely be given another shorter extension. But Nilekani will certainly want to settle in a new CEO before he himself exits.

"Infosys has deliberately strengthened the governance bench around him (Nilekani) with leaders like Paranjpe, which suggests the company is quietly building succession resilience without creating uncertainty around the chairman role itself. That is usually a sign of a mature board preparing for the long term, not reacting to immediate pressure," says Phil Fersht, CEO of IT research and consulting firm HFS Research.

During Infosys' 40th anniversary celebrations, Nilekani had noted the next chairman would almost certainly be a non-founder. "I will be having a chairman at whatever point I exit from the scene who will be a non-founder. There is no plan B if I hand it over to somebody and it doesn't work. I can't come back at 75, and I don't think any of these guys (other founders) want to come back either," he had said, and went on to note: "I would like Infosys to evolve into an institution that outlives founders and across generations through a professional model."

"Nilekani is well accepted by the board, management, employees and investors. He wants to ensure Infosys is safeguarded for the future," says Navnit Singh, chairman and regional managing director at executive search firm Korn Ferry India. "With the vice-chairman's appointment, we can expect the next phase of leadership evolution. The key challenge is how he prepares the firm for an AI-led world."

Venkat Shastry, founder of leadership consulting firm QuantumV, says the AI era is reshaping the technology services industry at a speed and scale few have witnessed before. "At a moment like this, having someone of Nilekani's standing at the helm of Infosys is genuinely valuable," he says. "He brings not just experience, but credibility – with clients, investors and policymakers alike. Boards of great companies understand that stability at the top is a strategic asset, particularly when everything else around them is changing rapidly."

Oman offers to up petchem, fert supply as FTA kicks in

New Delhi: India and Oman rolled out a free trade agreement on Monday, with first set of consignments being shipped at concessional or zero rates, as New Delhi offered a food security pact to further cement ties with the Gulf Nation.

Amid the West Asia conflict, which has disrupted supplies, Oman's foreign trade advisor Pankaj Khimji said the country was willing to supply more fertiliser and petrochemicals to India. He said Oman would be happy to consider diverting its share of the production from the Oman India Fertiliser Project – a joint venture between Iffco, Kribhco and Oman Investment Authority -- to India if such a request comes.

Apart from lowering tariffs on 99% of goods exported by India (98% of the products or tariff lines), including textiles, leather, engineering goods and food and marine products, Oman has also agreed to provide visa benefits to Indian workers and businesses. Indian firms investing in Oman can hire Indian workers over and above the local employment requirements mandated by the Omani govt under the free trade agreement that took effect on Monday, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said.

Further, Indian pharmaceuticals can hope to get faster approvals in the medicine, which is approved by the US, European or UK regulator. In return, 78% of products imported from Oman will see tariff elimination or reduction, including energy, fertilisers, and industrial goods. Indian consumers can also hope to get cheaper dates from Oman while the Gulf nation has also lifted a ban on export of marbles to India. Goyal said Oman was a gateway to the region, including its key ports. TNN

UK FTA: India reviews duty relief on Scotch

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt is reviewing tariff concessions on Scotch and some other products proposed in the trade agreement with the UK if its concerns over steel quotas and duties are not addressed before the treaty is ratified.

"We have to rebalance the FTA... We haven't made up our mind, but we can consider action on certain goods like Scotch, unless they roll back the steel duty," a senior govt official said ahead of UK trade secretary Peter Kyle's visit to resolve the deadlock.

Kyle is scheduled to meet commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Tuesday. Govt is upset at the new measures imposed by the UK after the trade deal was finalized last year with govt officials pointing to the contrast with the European Union, which had offered to protect India's interests given the changes on the anvil. As a result, the treaty which was to be implemented in May has been deferred indefinitely with no fresh date in sight as Indian authorities revisit the tariff concessions that have been offered. Govt is also expected to seek clarity on the UK's planned Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism. "We need clarity on it, or we will have to deal with it in Jan, when it is to be implemented," the official said.

In a statement, the UK said that Kyle will seek to advance trading relationship already worth £48 billion ($56.5 billion). "as global conflicts including the continued blockade of the Strait of Hormuz are causing economic shocks across the world's biggest economies, Peter Kyle sees advancing the UK's vital economic partnership with India as a key priority, with significant mutual benefit," the statement said.

TriZetto CEO Mengert exits co

Shilpa.Phadnis
@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Craig Mengert, CEO of Cognizant's healthcare software subsidiary TriZetto, has reportedly exited the company after nearly two decades with the healthcare technology firm, sources told TOI. He served as CEO for over 7 years. The development comes just two weeks after Cognizant hosted a major healthcare conference in the US.

An email sent to Cognizant seeking comment did not elicit a response by press time. TriZetto is a key part of Cognizant's healthcare business. Cognizant acquired the healthcare technology company for $2.7 billion in 2014 and has since integrated its software platforms into a broader suite of healthcare services.

Today, Cognizant supports more than 200 million healthcare members in the US and processes over $500 billion in annual healthcare spending across claims, eligibility, prior authorization and payment integrity workflows. TriZetto's portfolio of healthcare software products helps insurers, healthcare providers and other industry stakeholders improve administrative efficiency, manage costs and enhance quality of care.

A thought for today

But a city is more than a place in space, it is a drama in time

PATRICK GEDDES

Faulty Towers

Delhi's latest building collapse is another reminder to revamp the revenue & administrative models of cities

A five-storey building collapsed in Delhi on Saturday, killing six people and leaving 10 injured. It wasn't old, but poorly built. And the owner was adding another floor to it, for additional rent. It was, plainly, a house of cards, so its falling was no accident. What was it then? Negligence is a ready answer. But it denies culpability. Civic officials, whose job is to keep an eye on construction, groundwater extraction, sewage, power connections, etc somehow didn't notice this 50-ft block. A giant walked through the park unnoticed.

Fact is, it wasn't the only building of its kind in the neighbourhood, and cities across India are full of them now. What's going on isn't negligence but wilful connivance. But why? Why are unplanned neighbourhoods increasingly becoming dense commercial and residential hubs? The answer lies in our failure to plan cities as engines of economic growth. India is a growing economy, and demand for built-up area is rising rapidly. Per a World Bank estimate, urban India will house 60cr people and produce 70% of GDP within a decade. But that can't happen if policies throttle the growth of cities.

This is evident from the horizontal spread of our cities this century. Builders and buyers have been moving to the suburbs – or to unplanned neighbourhoods where officials look the other way – because they are cheaper. Space within cities is costly because it is scarce, but the scarcity is manmade. There are limits on the percentage of a plot that can be covered, and more limits on the number of floors that can be built. Where Singapore allows 2,500 sqft of floor space on a plot of 100 sqft, Delhi allows only up to 350 sqft.

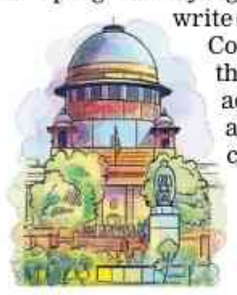
This is an old problem that experts have repeatedly drawn attention to. This year's Economic Survey said, "Cities are expected to deliver growth, productivity, and jobs, yet...Indian urban policy often reverses this logic." So, many buyers and tenants are pushed towards shaky buildings in seedy areas, where another problem becomes apparent – fragmented governance. Indian civic bodies don't earn enough revenue to meet their expenses, and multiplicity of authorities doesn't allow them to take action even when violations – like the collapsed building – arise in plain sight. If we're serious about fixing Indian cities, let's start with their governance structure, so that authority and accountability are not in doubt.

Adults In The Room

SC did well to liberate voluntary adult sex workers. They're neither victim nor offender

In an excellent judgment, Supreme Court has centred on 'individual agency' to decide on a framework for rescue & rehab of adult sex workers. It raised the key question the law skipped: why rescue adult women who are sex workers voluntarily, and do not need "rescuing"? SC went on to sharply delineate categories – coerced, trafficked, or voluntarily engaged in sex work. It called out Sec 17 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (ITPA) for its "paternalistic assumption" that treats all persons rescued from prostitution-related situations in the same manner, that such a "one-size-fits-all" approach fails to account for the different realities of the "rescued".

The bench took its time and delivered a powerful, empowering and progressive judgment, using its powers (Articles 32 and 142) to write out how police should go about their missions. Cops and magistrates must first question – hold a threshold inquiry – before embarking on rescuing adult sex workers. And for those rescued, SC has also detailed conditions for safe houses. It's clear: there is no confusion – prostitution is legal, soliciting illegal, an individual practising prostitution, as livelihood, cannot be criminalised. Where ambiguity lay, SC said, was in the law treating all sex work as "solely being abusive or exploitative." It's empowering for voluntary adult sex workers – their own wishes and choices will be key to decisions on rehabilitation, or returning to the community. The only exceptions, SC ruled, are when there are safety risks or when their decision is influenced by pressure, threats, or coercion. Determining that is the magistrate's job.



This order is a first step in freeing sex workers from police harassment during raids. They are harassed even otherwise – these exploitations are well-documented. Failure to distinguish voluntary adult sex work from trafficking in ITPA's wording has long meant inconsistent application, even misapplication of the law. SC has cleared the air, and liberated a whole lot of workers.

Exam fever

National Anxiety Agency scores A+ in chaos

Anil Abraham

I woke up, sweating profusely. Kamala was worried that it was a heart attack, or that global warming had finally made its presence felt. But it was just the same repeated nightmare, which has haunted me since childhood. The main story is identical every time. Only, with the details changed slightly, to give it a new twist. In one version, for example, I find myself having reached the exam hall fully prepared to ace the Biology paper, on the day of the Physics exam. Panic and palpitations invariably follow. Before I wake up, realising that it was just a bad dream. Other times I forget my hall-ticket, or mix up the dates of the exam, or am desperately late to it. The recurring theme remains one of despair and disaster.

Students nowadays are living this nightmare only. Except, with no option to wake up, and find reality a bit better. First, the NEET-UG paper leak proved that the process was not so neat after all. Authorities have since declared war on that examination, by involving the army and the air force. It's interesting that the navy has not yet been called in, to save a sinking ship. And also that the original leak has not been plugged, though the pipeline is being guarded zealously. I do the same when Plumber Padmanabha does not come to fix the kitchen sink – wrap the leak with a large bath towel, and hope that I have camouflaged the chaos. It gives me the feeling that I am doing something, but actually nothing gets done.

Next, CBSE decided to improve a system that was already awesome, with an OSM (On Screen Marking) one. What began as one student's viral complaint about his Physics answer sheet spiralled into unprecedented online trolling. Meanwhile, principals without principles were parroting the same lines to justify the system, leading to a meme festival. Since the armed forces are busy with the NEET exam, IITs have been recruited to solve the CBSE issue. Then, many students found CUET aborted, at the last minute. Because of technical glitches, leading to delays, and even more angst. Really, National Testing Agency is doing a great job testing the patience of young students. Our education system remains proud that once upon a time we discovered the concept of zero – it's since progressed to zero accountability. The students have not failed – the system has.

In IPL, Age Is Just A Number

RCB's repeat triumph was built around Kohli (37), with Bhuvi, Hazlewood & Krunal, also 30-plus players. But the tournament's sensation, Vaibhav, is just 15. What does this mean? Don't look at how old a player is. Look at talent, fitness and hard work

Avijit Ghosh

In 2007, three major cricket stars – Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly – opted out of the first T20 World Cup. The reason proffered was that the game's bonsai but frenetic version was best suited to youngsters. Over the years that line of reasoning was occasionally refuted; CSK's 'Dad's Army' triumph in 2018, and to a lesser extent in 2021, obvious examples. But Sunday night, RCB's senior citizens provided the viewpoint's most emphatic negation.

For two consecutive seasons now, Virat Kohli, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood and Krunal Pandya – all 35 or above – have produced consistent prime time performances to exemplify what author-actor Joan Collins once said, "Age is...totally irrelevant unless, of course, you happen to be a bottle of wine." It's true that RCB's young guns – Devdutt Padikkal, Rasikh Salam, Venkatesh Iyer, and skipper Rajat Patidar himself – made positive interventions. But in the business end's pivotal moments, the aging maestros were the men who mattered in RCB's repeat triumph.

At 37, Kohli remains an actor in constant search of the biggest stage waiting to deliver his finest lines. His perfectly anchored unbeaten 75 off 42 against Gujarat Titans in the final made him Player of the Match. Last year too, his 43 was the final's highest score on either side. A pan-India box-office draw, Kohli is the reason why RCB is never short of fans in any stadium. Last year, all-rounder Pandya was Player of the Match for his miserly 2/17 against Punjab Kings in the final. Pacemen Bhuvi and Hazlewood struck fatal blows in both matches.

Their accomplishments are a recurrent story written in unforgiving heat over numerous weekends through two long seasons. Bhuvi, RCB's bowling *brahmastra* this year, had 28 scalps, second only to topper GT's Kagiso Rabada's 29. Selectors are reminded he last played T20 for India in 2022. Veteran Aussie pacer Hazlewood took 15 wickets this year, adding to his 22 last season when he finished third on the charts. Pandya made winning contributions with bat and ball both seasons.

Just like Kohli who scored an impressive 657 runs in 2025, and a more impressive 675 this edition. Together, RCB's good men have underlined that experience and quality cannot be substituted with an "Impact Player". And as Novak Djokovic and Cristiano Ronaldo have shown in other sports, a combination of talent, work ethics, and fitness can conquer physical and mental barriers erected by age.

In an opposite way, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has demonstrated the same. If Kohli established age is just a number, so did Vaibhav. At 15, he is IPL's Player of the Series, the most valuable player. He scored 776 runs, more than anyone else. He smashed 72, more sixes than anyone ever. His strike rate, 237, was better than the best. They are the 'Dhurandhar' version of cricket stats.

Experts have commented on his out-of-syllabus bat-swing, power in shots, surreal self-belief, and audacity. The astute Sachin Tendulkar recently pointed out that he picks the ball earlier than others, and how his deft wristwork enables him to play in all directions.

Vaibhav's two 90s in his last two innings unveiled different facets to his game. His 97 against SRH, where he was one stroke short of breaking Gayle's record for the fastest IPL ton, was vastly different in approach from his 96 against GT in the next game. The first was a dazzle of fireworks; the second underlined his willingness to play the waiting game, bend to the needs of time and team, validating his maturity and awareness. I repeat: he is 15.

Almost every bowling great was dispatched for a six in the first over. Bowlers are already over-celebrating Vaibhav's dismissals with a maniacal glee reserved for the game's best. The boy from Bihar, alongside paceman Jofra Archer, dragged a mediocre RR to the playoffs. RCB retained the trophy, but this IPL will be remembered as Vaibhav's. Ben Gardner of *Wisden*, posted jokingly on X, "Three nineties in Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's last four innings. Finally, we've found his weakness." Vaibhav has launched a new way of batsmanship. The future will try to bat like him. And fail. It is impossible to replicate Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. I repeat, one last time, he is 15.

Indian players outsmart foreigners: Indian Premier League is becoming Indians Premier League, especially in batting. Unlike the early years, local batters are dominating leaderboards. Foreign batters generally lead 'strike-rate' charts. Even that's changing. In 2026, four of the top five strike-rates belonged to Indians: Vaibhav, Finn Allen of New Zealand, Priyansh Arya, Abhishek Sharma and Urvil Patel, in that order. Simply put, India will not be short of big hitters in future.

It is a different story in bowling. Five of the top 10 wicket-takers are foreign players, Rabada topping the list. Old warhorse West Indies spinner, Sunil Narine, has the meanest economy rate. Premier Indian spinners – Varun Chakravarthy, Kuldeep Yadav and Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal – had a hard time. However, the home-grown pacers' pool has grown: Prince Yadav, Mohsin Khan, Anshul Kamboj, Sakib Hussain.

Tailpiece: Among the joys of IPL is listening to Ian Bishop. The former West Indies fast bowler's commentary is enriched with perspective, insight, and background information. Contrarily, home-grown commentators, especially star cricketers of the past, turn up without any homework.

Shadows Of The Last Great Empire

What makes membership of old British clubs so desirable? Answer lies in their evolutionary story

Abhilash.Gaur@timesofindia.com

When deep pockets vie for membership of Gymkhana Club, the one that govt wants evicted from 27 acres of Lutyens' Delhi, what exactly are they buying into? Rumour has it, the club's membership entails a wait of 30-40 years. Someone who applied in the middle of Manmohan Singh's first Budget speech in July 1991, might still be in the queue. That's half a lifetime. Plus, the price of a premium SUV. So, what gives Gymkhana and other elite clubs, vestiges of the Raj, their cachet?

It can't be Samuel Johnson's idea of a club. The good doctor, father of the modern dictionary – reason to pay attention to his definition – described a club as, "An assembly of good fellows meeting under certain conditions." That could be a college staffroom. The club he founded – called The Club – nine years later, in 1764, was just a venue for weekly dinner and discussion. And in that, it pretty much followed the template of other famous clubs of the past century.

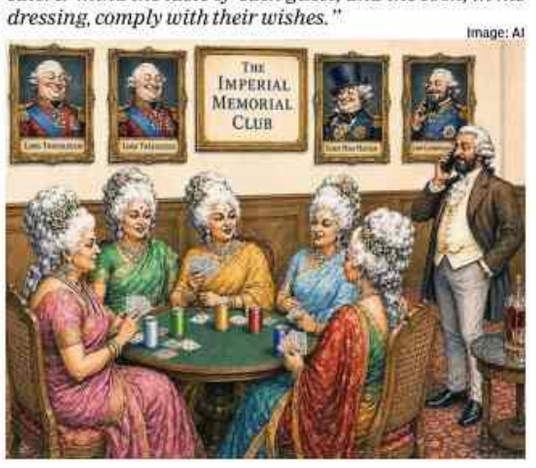
While clubs have probably been around for as long as human society, the English word for them wasn't coined until the 1600s. Why is that important? Because Gymkhanas and other clubs we're so interested in, have an Englishness about them. They couldn't have risen without the peculiarities of the English character, and the circumstances of that nation at a certain point in history.

Here's a 1659 entry by English scientist, archaeologist and writer John Aubrey: "We now use the word Clubbe for a sodality held in a tavern." Sodality is just an uncommon word for fellowship, and Aubrey was merely recording a social trend for posterity. Note the word 'tavern', and Aubrey's later description of how early clubs worked, democratically: "Here we had a balloting box, and balloted how things should be carried."

The first famous London club was poet Ben Jonson's 'Apollo', occupying a room at a tavern called 'Devil'. And since Jonson passed away in 1637, it had predated Aubrey's description by a few decades. Apollo's manifesto was straightforward: *"Let the learned and witty, the jovial and gay, the generous and honest, compose our free state..."*

Wit, not wealth, was your ticket to this select society. But in material principles, it bore kinship to today's finest private clubs: *"Let no scent offensive the chamber infest; let fancy, not cost, prepare all our dishes; let the caterer mind the taste of each guest, and the cook, in his dressing, comply with their wishes."*

Image: AI



After Apollo, Mermaid Tavern, patronised by Shakespeare, as well as Jonson, became a popular club. Keats paid tribute to it two centuries later: *"Souls of poets dead and gone, what Elysium have ye known – happy field or mossy cavern – choicer than the Mermaid Tavern?"* Just as things were getting too poetic, Rota Club gave clubs a political turn in 1659. It was a Republican society, with Milton among its members, aimed at countering the royalists of 'Sealed Knot'.

Briefly, then, clubs became very popular in 17th-century England, when the country started making its mark on everything from science to literature, political philosophy, and trade – which would lead to empire. They became so popular that they were no longer content to work out of taverns. And the club-house was born.

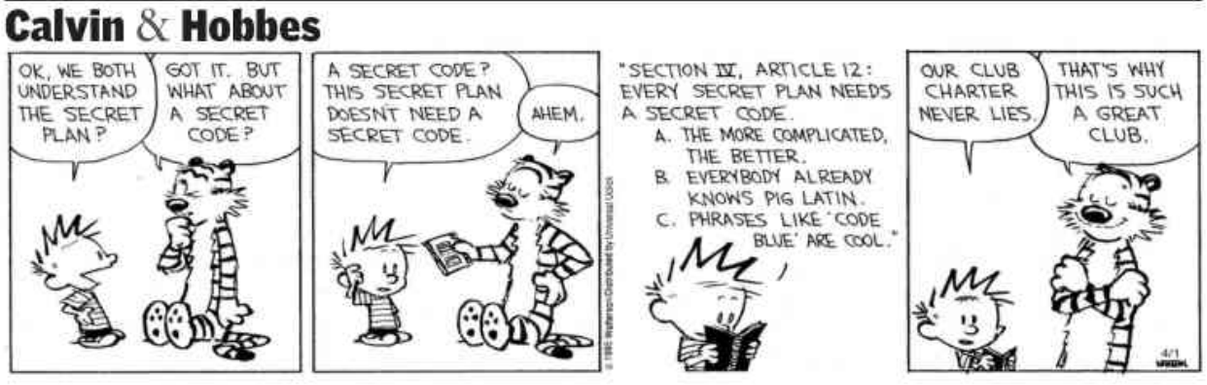
This was an innovation that hadn't occurred to ancient Greeks and Romans, despite all their clubbing. Apparently, the cooks of Augustus, first Roman emperor, had a club of their own. Rome had a famous women's club too, called Senate of Matrons, to discuss matters of fashion, etiquette and privilege. But no club-house. Without this English invention, Delhi Gymkhana wouldn't have sat on 27 acres.

But why did club and club-house spring on a cold, rainy island? Sociologists have given some thought to this, and one convincing theory is the English horror of "indiscriminate association". They love to mingle, but only among social equals. The club, as it became more picky, more select, reinforced societal lines. That explains Gymkhana's 30- or 40-year admission wait. But in colonies, India included, the club became even more important. As historian Jan Morris put it, "Clubs were islands of Britishness in the great Indian sea, to which the imperialists might withdraw whenever they felt a personal, social or ritual need."

Which was also the reason why clubs abroad were more British than those at home. On visiting Ooty Club after Independence, journalist Trevor Fishlock wrote: "India is perhaps the last refuge of the freshly made British pudding. In its land of origin it has been largely displaced..." And a *Los Angeles Times* article in 1985 said, "The same English puddings served in the Ooty Club can be found in the isolated former British Hill Club in Nuwara Eliya in central Sri Lanka."

To come back to our question then, why do deep pockets vie for membership of old and famous British clubs? Certainly not for their acres and British pudding. At stake is the pixie dust of the last great empire. At private club tables, everyone is Clive, Dalhousie, Hardinge or Curzon. Not Shakespeare or Milton, because that kind of patron goes elsewhere, believing all the world's a club.

Calvin & Hobbes



Sacred*space*

Do not look at anybody in terms of friend or foe, brother or cousin; do not fritter away your mental energies in thoughts of friendship or enmity. Seeking the Self everywhere, be amiable and equal-minded towards all, treating all alike.

Adi Shankara

Why i Dare To Differ From Adi Shankara

Karan Singh

The question of our relationship to the Divine has challenged all religions and philosophies. Markedly different views have been expressed in religious texts by philosophers. I have tried to express my own response to Adi Shankaracharya's philosophy.

Adi Shankaracharya is probably our greatest ever philosopher/scholar. Thanks to his commentaries, we can approach the Upanishads, Gita and Brahma Sutras – the three foundations of Vedanta. There is, therefore, no question of denigrating his massive work. What i dare to differ from is his goal. In his writings, Adi Shankara seeks to become Shiv – *Chidananda rupa ShivohamShivoham*. I do not believe that we can become Shiv; *AkhandaMandalakaramVyapatam YenaCharacharanam*. The power that pervades the infinite galaxies and all that exists – movable and immovable. We can certainly reach a level at which we regard ourselves as part of Shiv, but that does not mean we can *become* Shiv.

In contrast, my goal is *Shivalokam AvapnotiShivenSahamodate*. In other words, i wish to reach Shivalok and then enjoy with Shiv. This is quite different from wanting to *become* Shiv. Seeing and interacting with Shiv is a more acceptable and realistic goal. Therefore, rather than Shankara's Advait Vedanta, i prefer Dvait Vedanta as expounded by Vallabhacharya and Madhavacharya. In fact, Vallabhacharya's concept of Vishishtadvaita is interesting because it leaves both possibilities open. Shankara's famous verse is *Brahamsatyam jagat mithya jeevo Brahamevnapra* – Brahmn is true, the world is untrue, the Atma is Brahmn. I would venture to suggest an alternative approach: *Brahamsatyam, Jagat Satyam, JeevoShivenNapra* – Brahmn is true, the manifestation is true, the jiva is in fact, Shiv.

THE SPEAKING TREE

While these conceptual differences may be important, what really matters is whether we are internally working on ourselves so that we can begin to absorb the Divine light, particularly when the whole world seems engulfed in a wave of hatred and violence. It is important that those of us on the spiritual path should maintain our equanimity and not get carried away by the current chaos. Wars in Europe and Asia have involved 1,000s of deaths, not to speak of massive dislocation and destruction of heritage sites.

I would like specially to mention the Israel/Palestinian conflict. Few people now recall how close we used to be to the Palestinians and how, as we did with racial discrimination in South Asia, we reiterated our support for Palestine, whenever the occasion arose. In fact, i recall having met Yasser Arafat in Beirut several decades ago. Apparently, he looked upon Indira Gandhi as his sister. It is surprising that the death of over 65,000 Palestinians in the Israel/Hamas conflict has hardly created a ripple in our press or political life. Israel is undoubtedly a remarkable country, created almost exactly at the time when we attained Independence. However, despite the terrible and suicidal attacks by Hamas on Israel, the response has been overwhelming resulting in a large number of deaths. The question arises as to how we can link contemporary events with philosophical interpretation of the relationship between the individual and the Divine. This is a question that all individuals have to answer themselves.

Litchi to mango, how fruits are falling prey to changing weather

Unseasonal rain, hailstorms and heatwaves during April-May adversely impacted fruit crops across the country. From Bihar to Maharashtra, TOI visits orchards to assess the extent of damage and its economic cost

Madan Kumar, Sandip Dighe, Tushar Pawar & Rohit Mullick | TNN

Every year in Muzaffarpur, the summer's oppressive heat brings with it the heavy, sweet scent of ripening fruit that fills the air. The pale pink ping pong ball-shaped fruit holds the promise of succulent, sweet flesh and juicy satisfaction. But this year, the smell of damp earth and rotting hangs across orchards in this Bihar district that's famous the world over for its 'Shahi' litchi.

"When you walk into the orchard during litchi season, you can hear the call of birds and buzz of bees," says 40-year-old Jitu Paswan, treading on a carpet of thousands of blackened, half-ripe fruits. "This year, you can hear the clicking sound of millions of bugs crawling over the bark. If you shake a branch, they drop on your head and spray a foul, burning liquid that stains your skin and stings your eyes." This almost dystopian scene has been caused by the combination of unseasonal rain in the last two months and the attack of the 'stink bug' pest.

Last year, Paswan was able to use earnings from the harvest to pay for a daughter's school fees and wedding expenses for another daughter. This year, he has nothing. Paswan is not alone. Scientists estimate that nearly 70% of Bihar's litchi crop has been wiped out this year.

Intense heat, followed by rain and hailstorms in April and May, created the ideal breeding ground for an aggressive, full-blown epidemic of the litchi stink bug this year in Bihar's Muzaffarpur

Changing Weather

Unseasonal rain, hailstorms and heatwaves during April-May have adversely impacted fruit crops across the country, putting in jeopardy thousands of farmers and farm incomes. Besides litchi, apples, mangoes, grapes and bananas have been badly hit. The damage is only compounded by the fact that horticulture farming is capital-intensive and a far riskier endeavour than typical cropping.

Ramchandra Sable, a Maharashtra-based agrometeorologist, says rising temperatures and erratic rainfall are disrupting delicate crop stages such as flowering, pollination and fruit development. Fruit crops are highly climate-sensitive because their reproductive phases depend on stable temperature and humidity conditions, he says.

"Mangoes require specific winter conditions for proper flowering. Grapes need dry weather during maturity. Bananas are vulnerable to wind and excess moisture. What we are seeing now is increased climate variability, sudden rain events, hailstorms, heat stress and prolonged humidity, all within short periods," he added.

Litchi Reports A Bug

Climate change has severely crippled production of Bihar's iconic, GI-tagged Shahi litchi. The delicate, subtropical fruit demands strict microclimatic conditions to thrive, but erratic weather cycles have triggered crop losses. ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture director T Damodaran says that India's litchi production is expected to go down by 40% because of crop loss in Bihar.

Scientists working at ICAR-National Research Centre on Litchi (NRCL), Muzaffarpur, say unseasonal rain, dense cloud cover, and severe hailstorms destroyed what was left of the delicate blossoms (manjar) and young fruits. Temperatures breached 38°C in April and May, causing massive, premature fruit drop. Intense heat coupled with dry westerly winds blackened the skin, dried up the succulent pulp, and cracked the fruit before it could mature. Then came the rain and hailstorm of April and May. The moisture and sudden heat created a perfect, suffocating greenhouse effect — the ideal breeding ground for an aggressive, full-blown epidemic of the litchi stink bug.

While the stink bug is a known pest, its numbers this year grew beyond anything local scientists or farmers had ever recorded. Deprived of nutrients, litchis drop to the ground long before they can ripen. Those that manage to stay on the branch become stained, bitter, and unfit for sale.

Multiple Crises Hit Mango

Summer once meant certainty in the orchards across Maharashtra. Mango trees in Konkan would bend under the weight of the Alphonso fruit, banana growers in Jalgaon would ready truckloads for markets across north India, and vineyards in Nashik would race against time to meet export deadlines.

This year, many farmers say the season instilled fear and unease. Agriculture department studies showed widespread losses in north Maharashtra, especially in Nashik and Dhule districts, while mango growers in Konkan reported one of the weakest harvests in recent years. In the Konkan belt, Alphonso farmers say flowering patterns have become erratic due to warmer winters, while unseasonal rain and humidity trigger fungal attacks and fruit drop.

Flagging erratic growth, Ramesh Parab, a mango grower from Ratnagiri, said, "Flowering comes early in some patches and late in others. Then, rain arrives during fruit setting and the tiny mangoes fall to the ground. We have seen three difficult years on the trot."

Maharashtra's Alphonso output reported a sharp decline this season because of prolonged cloud cover, pest attacks and erratic weather, according to growers and officials.

Banana Comes A Cropper

Jalgaon, the banana capital of India because of its export-quality fruit, reported similar distress after strong winds and heavy rain flattened plantations. Strong winds toppled entire rows overnight and lakhs of rupees spent on drip irrigation, tissue culture plants and fertilisers were wasted. "Banks still want repayment and so do the input companies. But the crop is lying ruined on the ground," Patil added. He said climate-related losses are now becoming more regular than rare. "Earlier, extreme weather happened once every five or six years. Now, every season brings new shocks. We farm under tension every single day," he added.

A woman inspects fruits in an apple orchard near Shimla

File photo of grapes destroyed by a hailstorm near Jalna in Maharashtra

The mango crop in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri was affected by unseasonal rain this year

File photo of bananas on a farm near Nagpur affected by heat stress

Grape Takes A Tumble

The grape industry, too, is in the throes of a severe crisis with production dropping by nearly 50% from 36 lakh tonnes in 2024-25 (Nov-April) grape season to 19.3 lakh tonnes in 2025-26. The steepest decline of 70% in grape production was in Nashik district, from 15.8 lakh tonnes last year to merely 5.3 lakh tonnes this year. Sangli district witnessed a 60% drop and Pune region reported a 30% fall.

According to Kailas Bhosle, president of the grape growers' association, continuous rainfall from May last year till mid-Oct affected the flowering and fruiting stages in vineyards. Balasaheb Palve, a grape farmer from Velapur village in Niphad taluka, said his four-acre vineyard did not produce any fruit this season.

"Earlier, each plant used to produce around 34-35 bunches, but this time it yielded only three to four. I finally uprooted the vineyard on four acres in early Nov and sowed maize. However, that too failed. I got low prices for the grapes and could not recover my expenses," he added. He is struggling with a Rs 15 lakh bank loan and has borrowed Rs 12-13 lakh from friends and relatives.

"Summer was when we earned and cleared our debts," says grape farmer Suresh Jadhav from Niphad in Nashik district. "This year, hail hit my vineyard just before harvesting. Nearly half the bunches cracked or developed fungus after rain. Export agents rejected the crop, saying it was not fit for Europe. One unseasonal spell of rain is enough to destroy an entire year of work," he added.

Apple On Red Alert

Up north, Himachal Pradesh looks headed for one of its worst apple seasons, with farmers reporting up to 70% losses due to prolonged erratic weather. "It's unprecedented," said Harish Chauhan, president of the Fruits, Vegetables and Flowers Growers Association, adding, "Our estimates suggest an overall loss of up to 70% in the state's major apple belts. The state's apple economy could shrink from Rs 5,000-6,000 crore to just Rs 1,500-2,000 crore this season."

A combination of inadequate chilling hours, sharp temperature fluctuations, frost, hailstorms, and untimely rainfall has ravaged orchards in Kullu, Shimla, Kinnaur, and parts of Mandi. These conditions have severely disrupted the critical stages of flowering, pollination, and fruit setting.

While the higher reaches, such as Kinnaur, have fared relatively better, mid and lower elevations have witnessed extensive damage, reaching 80% in some areas. Traditional varieties such as Royal Delicious and Red Delicious are among the worst hit.

Weather conditions have been unfavourable since winter. "Apple orchards did not receive the requisite chilling hours due to delayed and comparatively less snowfall, affecting bud development and fruit-setting cycle. And, in the peak apple flowering season in March, the weather took a sharp turn," Chauhan says. According to the Shimla Met office, heatwaves scrambled the first fortnight of March in Kullu, Mandi and Sirmaur, and then cold weather struck after March 15 due to snowfall in parts of Kullu, Mandi, Lahaul-Spiti, Chamba and Kinnaur districts.

Horticulture expert Gurmohinder Singh Kotia, who runs an apple nursery in Kullu, said the ideal flowering temperature is 15-22°C, but March saw wild fluctuations — spikes of 30°C and slumps of 10°C.

Bleak Future

Adaptation, rather than short-term compensation, will determine whether fruit farming remains viable. Scientists say that India needs climate-resilient farming strategies and horticulture planning must be redesigned around climate realities.

This includes weather-resilient crop varieties, protective netting, micro-irrigation, better drainage systems, real-time weather advisories and stronger crop insurance coverage. Farmers also need access to decentralised cold storage and processing units so damaged produce can still generate some income.

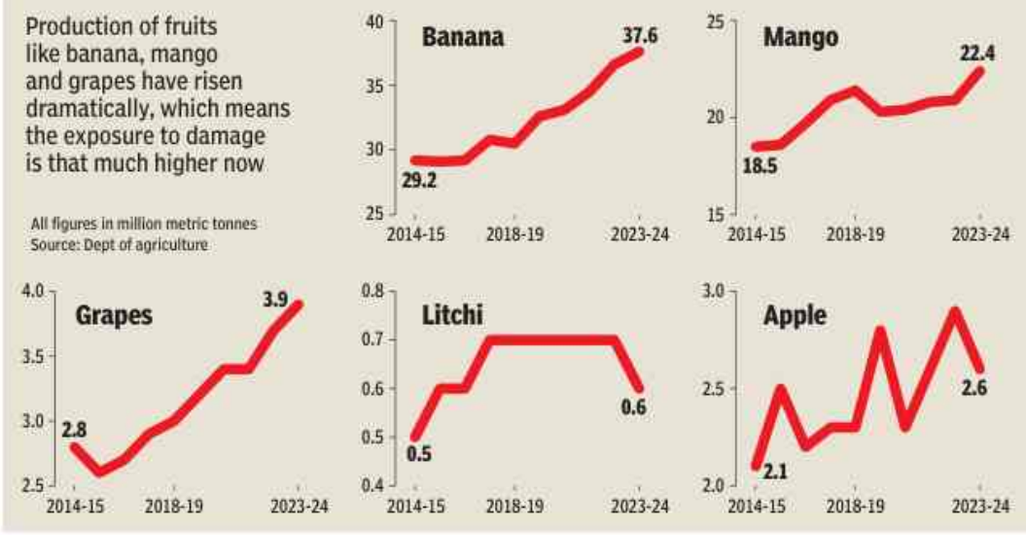
ICAR's Damodaran says studies have shown how techniques like cluster spraying and lowering canopy size have been effective in combating the stink bug on the litchi fruit.

In his Muzaffarpur orchard, litchi farmer Krishna Murari picks up a fallen, half-eaten litchi and gently cracks open the leathery skin. Inside, a small pocket of translucent white flesh remains untouched by the rot. He puts it in his mouth. The legendary sweetness is still there, sharp and vibrant, a stubborn reminder of what his land can produce.

INCREASING OUTPUT AMPLIFIES RISK TO FARM INCOMES

Production of fruits like banana, mango and grapes have risen dramatically, which means the exposure to damage is that much higher now

All figures in million metric tonnes
Source: Dept of agriculture



Adapting To Climate Change

- India is developing HRMN-99, Anna, and Golden Dorset for apples and Arka Udaya and Arka Suprabhath as varieties of mango. These crops can cope with unpredictable weather and boost farm productivity
- In the last decade Indian Council of Agricultural Research has released 2,177 crop varieties targeting various abiotic stresses like soil salinity and phosphorus, submergence in flood-prone areas, drought, heat and adaptability to late agricultural rainfed sowing cycles

Betting On Resilient Fruits

Dragon fruit | Grown in water-scarce regions of India (such as Andhra and Telangana), Southeast Asia, and Mexico
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Garnacha/carignan variety of grapes | This heat resistant fruit is grown in Europe (Spain, Italy, and southern France), California, and parts of Australia

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

E-Procurement Tender is invited for supply of Un-galvanised 36 feet long single circuit & 42 feet long double circuit Lattice Structure Sets under TN-2158 (UBN JVV2627GLOB00140).

Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at **energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl** and also at **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**

Raj.Samwad/C/26/3836 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)

बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/DCF/120/2025-26 Date: 01.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

In view of Bangalore Development Authority celebrating **50 years of golden jubilee, it has decided to plant 15 lakh saplings on 27th June 2026 with private participation at available locations across Bangalore city,** the schedule of tender process is as follows.

1) Tender avaliable at e-procurement portal on: **01.06.2026 onwards. 2)** Last date for submission of objections regarding tender: **08.06.2026 at 3.00 PM. 3)** Last date for submission of tender: **09.06.2026 upto 3.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Tender Technical Bid: **10.06.2026 at 3.10 PM.** Financial bid will be opened after verification of technical bids. **5)** Last date and time for submission of tender for the second call in case the tender process is not held/bid received on the said day **16.06.2026 at 3.00 PM. 6)** Date of Opening of Tender Technical Bid: **17.06.2026 at 3.10 PM.** Financial bid will be opened after verification of technical bids. (No separate tender announcement will be issued in respect of the second call for tenders.)

Skilled and qualified organizations for carrying out the said works can view the details through Karnataka Government e-portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for further details are requested to contact the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore during office hours.

Helpline/Whattsup: 94831 66622 (24 x 7). @BDAOfficialGoK

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, BDA, Bengaluru

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. USBRL Project office, Reasi, Jyotipuram Road, Tirntha, Post Gran Morh, Reasi (Distt. Reasi) J&K 182311, Jammu & Kashmir

OPEN E-TENDER
(Two-Packet System)

Tender Notice No. KR-PD-JK-EL-CMC-GE-KB-5-2026 dated 02/07/2026. Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd. Invites tender for "OPERATION & COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE (BREAKDOWN/ PREVENTIVE) WORKS OF INTEGRATED SUBSTATION AT REASI & SANGALDAN, E&M ASSETS FOR TUNNEL T-31 to T-55, REASI- TCC, BAKKAL-TCC, DUGGA-TCC, SAWALAKOTE -TCC, SANGALDAN TCC, SUMBER- TCC, KHARI-TCC, & BANIHAL - TCC, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL ASSETS OF REASI, BAKKAL, DUGGA, SAWALAKOTE, SANGALDAN, SUMBER & KHARI STATION BUILDING WORK FOR 05 YEARS IN THE KATRA (Excl.) to BANIHAL (Excl.) SECTION OF UDHAMPUR-SRINAGAR-BARAMULLA RAIL LINK PROJECT, JAMMU & KASHMIR." **Approx. Cost of the work:** ₹ 168.43 Cr. **Completion period of contract:** 60 months. **Submission of Tender:** 27/06/2026 upto 15:00 hrs. **Opening of Tender:** 27/06/2026 @ 15:30 hrs. **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil. **Earnest Money/ Bid Security:** ₹ 3,36,86,554/- or as per IREPS to be submitted through online payment modes available on IREPS Portal only. For further details and updates please visit https://www.ireps.gov.in. Amendments/ Corrigendum, if any would be hosted on the above website only.

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bangalore
(A Government of Karnataka Institutions)
No.8, KSCMF, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru – 560052. Email Id: ed.kreiska.gov.in, Contact No: 080-22283366, 080-22207722

PAPER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) invites applications from eligible candidates possessing MD Psychiatry / Diploma in Psychiatric Medicine (DPM) for appointment as Child Psychiatrists on an honorarium basis (one post per district) in Bagalkot, Bengaluru Rural, Bidar, Chamarajanagar, Chikkaballapur, Chikkamagaluru, Gadag, Hassan, Haveri, Kodagu, Koppal, Mandya, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Vijayapura, Ramanagara and Yadgiri districts to provide psychological counselling services to students studying in KREIS.

Honorarium: Rs. 50,000/- per month.

Interested candidates may submit their applications along with relevant documents to the Head Office of KREIS on or before 08.06.2026, 5.30 PM.

DIPR/CP/920/AKAR/2026-27 **Sd/- Executive Director**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Olo Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor,
Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple), Bengaluru 560070.
Phone No: 080-26716046 Website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/14/2026-27/478 Dated:01.06.2026

Short Term KPPP Tender Notice (Two Cover System)
TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, **For KPS and 4202-01-201-1-08-422 Grants Works.** The work details can obtained from the **KPPP** Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **Dated:10.06.2026 upto 4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Urban Dist, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/917/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.SEE-SCADA/EE(D)/AEE-Proj/F-48/2026-27/1117 DATE: 01-06-2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL, invites bid vide Bid Tender No. KPTCL/2026-27/ ND0306 (CALL-2) from the OEM/Authorized Agencies of the OEM for **"Supply of 450 Nos. of Communication cards (CMU) compatible to existing RTU (RTU560 of ABB), conforming to the Technical Specifications".**

The details can be obtained by logging on to **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 03.06.2026** and the last date & time for receipt of bid is as in **e-portal.** Any extensions of due date for bid submission will be intimated in the e-portal and if any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

All Corrigendum /Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Electy), SLDC, KPTCL, # 28, Race Course Cross Road, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560009

TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136, Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306, Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Description	Due date
262713 001324	Steaming (Non-Coking) Coal in Bulk (Imported) with 5000 GAR of Australian origin.	18.06.2026
262723 000677	Supply of Material, Fabrication at Supplier Works, Transportation, erection and testing of Stainless Steel (SS 316L) Tanks and Carbon Steel Tank for Speciality Chemical Storage in TNPL Unit-II.	12.06.2026
262723 000783	Procurement of Fuel oil for Unit-II.	09.06.2026

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website and NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/1982/Tender/2026 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/SW/SSC/02/2026-27 Dated: 01.06.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION Call-2
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject:- The Deputy Director (Admin), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender for Operation and Maintenance of Sport Science Center at Mysore with all Necessary Human resource.

Particulars : Operation and Maintenance of Sport Science Center at Mysore with all Necessary Human resource. EMD : **Rs 1,00,000/-. a)** Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E- Procurement Portal: **Dt. 16.06.2026:time 16.30Hrs. b)** Opening of Pre-Qualification Offers: **Dt. 17.06.2026: time 17.00 Hrs. c)** Opening of Commercial Offers: **Will be intimated**

The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal.

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Welfare)
Department of Youth Empowerment and sports

DIPR/CP/926/Zen/2026-27

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

HBO CONFIRMS WHAT ZENDAYA REMARKED EARLIER: 'EUPHORIA' OFFICIALLY ENDING WITH S3

QUESTIONS ARE NEVER INDISCREET, ANSWERS SOMETIMES ARE
— OSCAR WILDE

KEANU REEVES SAYS ALEXANDRA GRANT IS EASY TO LOVE AS SHE ADMITS HER ART HAS 'BECOME HAPPIER' WHILE DATING HIM

Hezbollah has pledged not to attack Israel, Bibi pulling back troops: Trump

US Prez Says Talks With Iran Continue After Tehran Suspended Dialogue Over Lebanon Hostilities

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

AFP

Reuters

(L) First responders inspect the damage at the site of an Israeli strike that hit near a hospital in the southern city of Tyre in Lebanon on Monday; People flee the southern suburbs of Beirut, which are controlled by Hezbollah, after Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu ordered a military offensive

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday said he spoke with Iran-aligned Lebanese militia group Hezbollah through intermediaries and secured a pledge that it would not attack Israel. Trump said he also spoke to Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, and Israel has agreed to pull back any troops that were preparing to attack southern Lebanon. No US president has ever spoken with Hezbollah, with or without intermediaries. The group is designated as a terrorist organisation by the US.

A Lebanese official said that Hezbollah had informed the US, through Lebanon's parliament speaker Nabih Berri, that it was willing to halt attacks on northern Israel in exchange for Israel sparing Beirut and its suburbs any strikes. The fighting in Lebanon has been the broadest spillover of the Iran war.

Earlier on Monday, Iranian state news agency Tasnim reported that Tehran was halting indirect negotiations with the US after Israel ordered troops to push deeper into Lebanon. However, President Trump, in a social media post, said that talks with Iran were ongoing. "Talks are continuing, at a rapid pace, with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

In telephone interviews with news outlets after that report, Trump said he had not been told that Iran was suspending talks with Washington. "They haven't informed us of that," Trump said in an interview with NBC News. Trump said that silence between the two sides would be fine and he was willing to wait. "I think we've been talking too much if you want to know the truth. I think going silent would be very good, and that could be for a long time," he told NBC.

A suspension in negotiations would not mean the US would start bombing Iran, Trump said, adding that the US blockade of Iranian ports would remain in place.

In an interview with CNBC, Trump had said he did not mind if the talks were over. "I don't care if they're over, honestly. I couldn't care less," CNBC quoted him as saying.

Earlier on Monday, Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi quoted hostilities in Lebanon to hint that the tentative truce in the Gulf appeared to be disintegrating. "The ceasefire between Iran and US is unequivocally a ceasefire on all fronts, including in Lebanon. Its violation on one front is a violation of the ceasefire on all fronts. US and Israel are responsible for the consequences of any violation," he said.

The US said it had conducted strikes against Iranian military facilities after Tehran allegedly targeted American assets and downed a US drone. Iran, meanwhile, claimed responsibility for attacks on American military installations in the Gulf region, including a reported strike aimed at a US base in Kuwait. The result is a familiar but increasingly dangerous pattern: diplomacy by day, missiles by night.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baghaei accused Washington of sending contradictory signals, saying the US simultaneously talks about talks while continuing military operations and backing Israeli actions in Lebanon. He said such inconsistency was either a negotiating tactic or evidence of confusion inside the administration.

However, the president seemed hopeful in his Truth Social post. "Iran really wants to make a deal, and it will be a good one for the USA and those that are with us. But don't the Democrats, and various seemingly unpatriotic Republicans, understand that it is MUCH tougher for me to properly do my job and negotiate, when political hacks keep negatively "chirping," at levels never seen before, over and over again, that I should move faster, or move slower, or go to war, or not go to war, or whatever." Trump wrote. "Just sit back and relax, it will all work out well in the end - It always does!" he added.

Across Europe, Asia and the Gulf, govts are urging de-escalation, a notable example coming on Monday when Japanese PM Sanae Takaichi held a telephone conversation with Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and emphasised that "de-escalation is achieved through dialogue," without blaming Iran for the stand-off. Tokyo's intervention reflects a broader international mood. While few govts are sympathetic to Iran's activities much less its pursuit of nuclear weapons, even fewer seem enthusiastic about the war that threatens global commerce.

With agency inputs

Florida state sues OpenAI & Altman over chatbot safety concerns

The state of Florida sued OpenAI and its CEO **Sam Altman**, accusing the artificial intelligence company of ignoring safety warnings and releasing a product that is harmful to users.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in state court, accuses OpenAI of violating product liability laws, and also raises negligence and deceptive and unfair trade practices claims. Florida is seeking civil penalties, and a court order for the company to stop collecting certain data from users under the age of 13 without parental consent. "Sam Altman and ChatGPT have chosen the AI race over the safety and security of kids," Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier said during a press conference. "They have chosen profit over public safety. We're not going to stand for it here in Florida."

The complaint appears to be the first of its kind filed by a state against OpenAI. The new lawsuit a is separate from a criminal probe initiated in April over possible liability for the company after authorities said ChatGPT was used in a mass shooting at Florida State University. "This litany of harms is driven by defendants' insatiable quest to win the AI arms race and amass large fortunes, despite knowing the danger of ChatGPT," the state said in its lawsuit. BLOOMBERG

Malaysia bans social media accounts for children under 16

AP

Social media platforms with at least 8m users in Malaysia must implement age-verification systems and block users under 16 from creating accounts

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia on Monday began enforcing rules barring millions of children younger than 16 from having social media accounts, joining a growing global effort to tighten safety protections. Not all families approved, and critics raised concerns about data protection and potential surveillance. Social media platforms with at least 8 million users in Malaysia, including Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube, must implement age-verification systems and block users under 16 from creating accounts.

Malaysia's communications and multimedia commission said age verification for existing users will be rolled out over the next six months. Users identified as under 16 will have a month to download or transfer data, including photos and videos, before restrictions or other actions are applied.

Companies that fail to comply could face penalties of up to 10 million ringgit ($2.5 million). Parents whose children manage to bypass the law will not be penalised. Malaysian govt said the measures are aimed at protecting children from harmful content, cyberbullying and platform features designed to encourage excessive use of media.

Countries including Australia, Brazil and Indonesia have introduced or announced age-based restrictions or requirements for children's access to social media. Others including Britain, France, Spain, Denmark, Thailand and South Korea are studying or developing similar approaches.

Malaysia's regulator said the rules are not intended to prevent children from accessing digital technology. Platforms are required to improve user safety, discourage excessive use and take action against underage accounts and harmful content. Technology companies have yet to describe how they will comply.

Clara Koh, Meta's director of public policy for Southeast Asia, has cautioned that Malaysia's under-16 ban could backfire by driving teenagers away from protected apps and into unregulated corners of the internet. AP

US bombs Iran military sites, Tehran hits base in Kuwait

Dubai: The US said on Monday that it bombed radar and drone sites in Iran after Tehran shot down an American drone over the weekend. Iran then said it targeted American soldiers in Kuwait with missiles, which the US says it shot down. The nominal ceasefire between Iran and the US has been repeatedly tested with such back-and-forth attacks.

In the meantime, Iran has maintained its chokehold on the Strait of Hormuz, disrupting global energy supplies and driving up the price of fuel around the world, with far-reaching consequences. A cargo ship came under attack off Iraq Monday afternoon, the British military said.

The US military said its action was in response to Iranian actions that included the shootdown of a US MQ-1 drone (above)

The US military's Central Command said it carried out the strikes in Iran on Saturday and Sunday around the city of Geruk and on Qeshm Island, hitting air defences, a ground control station and two attack drones it said threatened ships in the region. "The measured and deliberate strikes occurred ... in response to aggressive Iranian actions that included the shootdown of a US MQ-1 drone that was operating over international waters," Central Command said.

Kuwait said its air defences opened fire early Monday morning to intercept incoming drone and missile fire. Around the same time, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard said it responded to an American attack without saying where, likely referring to the attack on Kuwait. In a statement carried by the state-run IRNA news agency, the Guard said that US forces had targeted a telecommunications tower. Kuwait is home to US Army Central, the Mideast forward command for the army.

Iranian state television shared footage of the ballistic missile launch, including a close-up showing a sticker on its body depicting a bruised US President Donald Trump overlaid on a "closed" Strait of Hormuz with the caption: "Until the last American soldier leaves the region." Central Command said US forces shot down two ballistic missiles Iran launched toward bases home to American troops. No Americans were hurt, it added.

The attacks represent the latest escalation between the US and Iran. AP

IRGC threatens 'new fronts' over Lebanon offensive

Tehran: Iran's Revolutionary Guards threatened to open "new fronts" over Israel's offensive in Lebanon, state media reported on Monday. "Iran considers crossing the red lines in Lebanon and Gaza to mean direct war," state TV quoted the Guards as saying.

Guards added: "In return, it is determined to carry out defensive operations by opening new fronts, in addition to preserving the Hormuz equation." On Monday evening, Mohsen Rezaee, a military adviser to supreme leader said that "the escalation of tensions in Lebanon will not be tolerated". AFP

UK tribunal orders employer to award desi £30k for not paying him a penny

Naomi Canton

London: A Birmingham employment tribunal has ordered a UK care agency to pay £30,000 (Rs 38.4 lakh) in compensation to a Kerala native it brought to Britain on a healthcare visa to work as a care worker but didn't give him a single day of work or pay him a penny.

Shabin Shaji, a 33-year-old computer science graduate who had worked in healthcare in India, paid £17,000 (Rs 21.7 lakh) to agents to secure the visa in 2023, the Guardian reported. Once in the UK, he bought a car, relocated to Stafford and was ready and willing to work. Swan Care Solutions Ltd, the agency that sponsored his visa, went back on its word.

"I was broke and had to rely on charity," Shaji told the hearing. "I drank tap water and bought bread close to its expiration date to survive and looked around local shops in Stafford for free bananas. I attended church and on Sundays after worship, the good people who attend the worship shared with me some snacks."

He said he had thought the move would be a great opportunity. "When I came to the UK, I found immigrants and British people struggling. I was in a terrible situation, feeling like no one in authority cared if I lived or died."

On multiple occasions, Shaji asked his employer for the work they had brought him to the UK to do, telling them he had no money for food. "They told him to go to a foodbank," the Work Rights Centre, which represented him, said. The tribunal ordered Swan Care to pay him the amount for work he was ready to do. The Home Office has since revoked the agency's licence to issue certificates of sponsorship. Shaji secured sponsorship from another employer in 2024 but has since returned to India.

Nvidia launches new chip to bring AI directly to PCs

Reuters

Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang. The new AI personal computers are expected to debut in the fall of this year

Taipei: Nvidia unveiled Monday new powerful chips that would bring advanced artificial intelligence functions into laptops and desktop computers, with the new personal computer models from brands including Microsoft and Dell set to roll out later this year.

While Santa Clara, California-based Nvidia has already been massively successful in supplying high-end chips for data centres riding the worldwide AI demand boom, it is plotting different plans to expand its presence across AI systems and products.

Jensen Huang, the founder and CEO of Nvidia, made the announcement in Taipei at the annual Nvidia GTC event. Microsoft and Nvidia "are going to reinvent the PC (personal computer)," he said in his address. "This is going to be the new PC," Huang said as he unveiled Nvidia's RTX Spark superchip — which combines CPU, or central processing unit, and GPU, or graphics processing unit, capabilities — that would power new Windows laptop and desktop computer models in what the company called "AI personal computers," expected to debut in the fall of this year.

"When it has an autonomous (AI) agent, an agent that's helping you, that understands you, you could talk to it. It could look at you. You could ask it to read files, go help you do some research. It could do a lot more," Huang said. REUTERS

Hundreds protest against US Ebola facility in Kenya

Nairobi: Hundreds of people took to the streets in the central Kenyan town of Nanyuki on Monday to protest moves by the US to set up an Ebola quarantine facility at a military base, residents told Reuters, days after the high court ordered govt to suspend the plan temporarily. The court ordered the temporary suspension on Friday after a lawsuit was brought arguing that the site could endanger public health.

Senior US officials said the 50-bed unit at an air force base in Laikipia county would serve Americans who have been exposed to the virus but are still asymptomatic. Kenya's govt has also confirmed plans to set up the facility. A number of military aircraft flew in and out of Nanyuki last week and over the weekend, in what diplomats and experts said appeared to be part of ongoing US preparations for the quarantine unit despite the court order. REUTERS

Thousands gather to pay final respects to Awami League veteran, despite ban

Ahsan Tasnim

Tofail Ahmed was an eight-time MP and a former minister

Dhaka: Chants of "Joy Bangla", a slogan of the 1971 Liberation War closely associated with Awami League, echoed in central Dhaka, as thousands gathered to pay their final respects to party veteran Tofail Ahmed on Monday, despite a ban on the Sheikh Hasina-led outfit. Tofail, an eight-time MP, former minister and one of the prominent figures of Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War, passed away at a hospital here on Monday at 3:30pm. He was 82.

The gathering in Dhanmondi, many in Dhaka's political circles believe is not only indicative of the support that Hasina has, but also corroborates the buzz that a "reformed or refined" Awami League may be in the making.

The crowd raised slogans in support of both Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and former PM Hasina, who has been sentenced to death in cases of crime against humanity in absentia.

Speculation about a possibility of Awami League gradually gaining support was triggered after a former adviser of the Muhammad Yunus-led interim govt recently claimed reasons such as the interim govt's minimal reforms, inaction over persecution of minorities and it "embracing" hardline Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami in order to contain BNP, made way for Awami League to "effectively" return to Bangladesh's political arena.

Dipen Dewan, minister in minority communities, quits

Less than four months into PM Tarique Rahman's administration, Dipen Dewan — one of two ministers from minority communities — resigned from the cabinet on Monday citing health concerns.

Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs minister Dewan — a Buddhist and a prominent tribal face — said deteriorating health had made it increasingly difficult for him to fulfil his responsibilities effectively.

Nitai Roy Chowdhury — a Hindu — is the other minority community minister in the Rahman cabinet. He is the cultural affairs minister

In his resignation letter, Dewan (62) mentioned his physical condition was creating obstacles to the regular execution of ministerial duties.

DAILY PLANET

AFP

Moon rises behind the Greek ancient Temple of Poseidon in Athens

Chinese relive their 'wonderful' youth in sneak-eating contest

Sitting in a fake classroom mocked-up in a Beijing mall, hundreds of Chinese adults spent the weekend reliving their rebellious childhoods as they took part in a "school sneak-eating" contest. Using everything from textbooks and water bottles to pieces of paper as cover, participants competed to see if they could scoff a variety of snacks right under the teacher-referee's nose. Sunday's competition, organised by the mall and publicised online, is just one iteration of a nostalgia-driven craze that has taken Chinese social media by storm in recent weeks. "I used to sneak-eat snacks during class when I was a kid too, though not very often," admitted contestant An Dahua, 22. "It really brought back childhood memories..." Peckish participants sat in pairs at classroom desks, avoiding the watchful eye of the referee, who organisers said was a teacher in real life. A sign above the chalkboard urged students to "study hard and make progress every day" — a common slogan in Chinese classrooms. As the mock class progressed, participants used various items to hide their chewing. Those who managed to finish all their snacks within 10 minutes without being caught were declared victors and progressed to the next round.

Ibises fly again in Japan decades after extinction

Eight crested ibises were released into the wild in a north-central Japanese town, decades after the birds went extinct in the country. The endangered birds took off from each of their wooden cages at a ceremony Sunday in Hakui city in the Noto region, where they were last seen in the wild.

Residents cheered when the birds soared into the sky. The eight birds have been raised at a conservation centre on Sado Island in the neighbouring prefecture of Niigata following a successful captive-breeding programme. Ten more birds are waiting to be released. The white birds, called Toki in Japan, are native to East Asia and admired for their orange-pink hues under their wings and bright red marks around their eyes. The birds went extinct on the Honshu main island in the 1970s. The last remaining Japanese native ibis died in 2003 on Sado Island.

A bachelor's degree in rare earths? In China, there are schools for that

Every year, hundreds of adults head to the steppes of northern China to learn about rare earths at schools like the Inner Mongolia University of Science and Technology. After completing undergraduate study, they may venture a few kilometres up the six-lane Rare Earths Street in Baotou, where they can work for state-owned refiners that convert the critical minerals into magnets that power jet engines, electric vehicles and wind turbines. Or, the graduates may pursue further studies at the nearby Baotou Rare Earth Research Institute – 150 kms from the world's largest rare earths mine.

US President Trump and other Western leaders have pledged billions of dollars in investments to break China's chokehold on rare earths refining – a powerful lever Beijing has wielded in its trade war with Washington. But China still holds a significant advantage in the pipeline of talent that it has developed over decades in places like Baotou.

China has created an ecosystem of more than 40 specialist rare-earth laboratories that produce cutting-edge research, supplemented by at least 11 universities and technical colleges that collectively enrol more than 500 students annually in rare earths degree programs, a Reuters examination has found. That accumulated expertise sustains Beijing's grip on global supplies of refined rare earths.

Reuters

The office building of China Northern Rare Earth Group in Baotou

Several US institutions have begun incorporating more of a focus on rare earths in their curriculum, though Reuters could not identify a school outside China that offers a specific undergraduate degree.

"In China, I used to hire kids right out of university and they're immediately productive," said Constantine Karayannopoulos, former CEO of rare earths companies Neo Performance Materials and Molycorp. "Anywhere else I need to train them for three years."

China produces over 90% of the world's processed rare earths and rare earth magnets. Course materials published by some of the universities show a heavy focus on meeting the needs of industry.

Students majoring in rare earths engineering at the Inner Mongolia University receive more than 100 hours of teaching in courses such as rare earths chemistry and material science. One of the foundational courses is done in partnership with rare-earths labs, and students have the option of attending lectures at corporate facilities. The 70 students that the Jiangxi University of Science and Technology (JXUST) said are set to enrol in its newly created rare earths degree will study the supply chain from processing and metallurgy to magnets. Before graduating, students will also work on research projects with companies.

Some Chinese universities have acknowledged that they are training geopolitical assets. Rare earths are "core bargaining chips" in global politics, Li Chaozhong, dean of JXUST's rare earths programme, told state broadcaster CCTV. The university's new programme is designed not only for science, he said. It is "also to ensure that China continues to maintain its global leading position in the development of rare earth resources." REUTERS

TIMES SPORT

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

"I said to a few of the boys that it does not feel like the same kind of pressure as last year. We knew what kind of ability we have in the group. We topped the table. There is a reason why we got here first." —Virat Kohli

"It's stuff that you dream of. I've thought of this moment many times, that when we win the IPL, I should be standing there hitting the winning runs. Tonight, it was possible." —Virat Kohli

RCB turn slogan into reality

How Perennial IPL Underachievers Turned Into Serial Winners

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IANS

DOUBLE DELIGHT: RCB players celebrate after winning the title

Ahead of the 2016 IPL season, after a rare media interaction at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, then Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper Virat Kohli was persuaded by the vernacular media to utter words that would go on to define the franchise: "*Ee sala cup namde* (this time the cup is ours)." He obliged.

What began as a hopeful slogan soon became the heartbeat of RCB fandom. It echoed through packed stadiums and across social media, carrying the dreams of a fanbase desperate for success. Yet, as seasons passed without a title, the chant became a punchline, memes flourished. Some even dubbed it a jinx.

A decade later, the phrase has been reclaimed. The turnaround began in 2024, when the Smriti Mandhana-led women's team lifted the Women's Premier League trophy, changing the slogan to "*Ee sala cup namdu*".

The breakthrough shattered a psychological barrier. A season later, the men's team followed suit, securing their maiden IPL title. On Sunday night, RCB completed another chapter in their transformation. Captain Rajat Patidar lifted the trophy and declared, "*Ee sala nu cup namde* (this year too, the cup is ours)".

It was about more than retaining a title. It was validation of a journey that has turned RCB from perennial underachievers into one of the most formidable franchises. With four trophies now in their cabinet — two men's and two women's titles — RCB have moved beyond chasing success. They are building a culture of it.

The foundation of change

The roots of this sustained success can be traced back to 2023 and the decisions that followed. Andy Flower arrived as head coach. Mo Bobat joined as director of cricket. Together, the former England backroom colleagues brought a clear vision and a long-term plan. The results were not immediate.

RCB began the 2024 season disastrously, losing seven of their first eight matches. Just when the familiar narrative of underachievement seemed ready to resurface, they produced a remarkable turnaround, winning six consecutive games to reach the playoffs before bowing out in the Eliminator. The campaign ended without silverware but it served as a blueprint for what was to come.

Armed with clarity and conviction, Flower and Bobat approached the mega auction with a philosophy centred less on star power and more on potential and balance. On Monday, Flower explained how he and Bobat viewed the challenge. "I sort of reframed it in my head that RCB had never won a trophy, which meant it was less pressure for me coming in because there was a very clear route upwards and towards something that hadn't been done before. It helped us avoid getting cluttered by anything from the past. We mapped our way forward and embraced the excitement of the opportunity," he said.

Building the squad

Retaining only three players — Virat Kohli, Rajat Patidar and Yash Dayal — RCB effectively started with a blank canvas. The batting unit was built around Kohli's consistency and influence. Phil Salt provided aggression at the top, while Devdutt Padikkal, Patidar, Jitesh Sharma, Tim David and Romario Shepherd added depth and flexibility. The acquisition of Venkatesh Iyer for Rs 7 cr ahead of this season further strengthened the squad, with the allrounder proving crucial when Salt was unavailable.

Bobat and Flower also addressed the weakness in bowling. Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar brought experience and control. Rasikh Salam Dar emerged as a reliable option under pressure. Krunal Pandya and Suyash Sharma provided a vital spin dimension.

Importantly, RCB strengthened the support structure around the players. Former wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik transitioned into a mentoring and batting coach role. Malolan Rangarajan was entrusted with greater responsibilities across spin coaching, talent identification and the women's team. Mumbai Ranji team head coach Omkar Salvi joined as bowling coach.

The blend of Indian coaching expertise and international leadership created a system where responsibilities were defined and every member contributed to a larger vision.

Rajat Patidar provided understated but effective leadership — calm, grounded and resistant to external noise. Amid the sweeping changes, one constant remained. Virat Kohli's connection with RCB is inseparable from the franchise's identity. If the title triumph of 2025 was the culmination of a long wait, Kohli's role in that journey ensured he would remain central to the story forever.

Flower summed it up best. "His hunger and drive, it's genuinely inspiring, even for older blokes like me. It's wonderful to witness. And we're very lucky to have him in the dressing room."

For years, RCB were defined by hope and heartbreak. Now, they are known for excellence, and the chant that once invited ridicule has become a statement of belief fulfilled.

(With inputs from ***Chitrangada C****)*

HOW PREDICTION MARKETS SAW RCB WIN

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

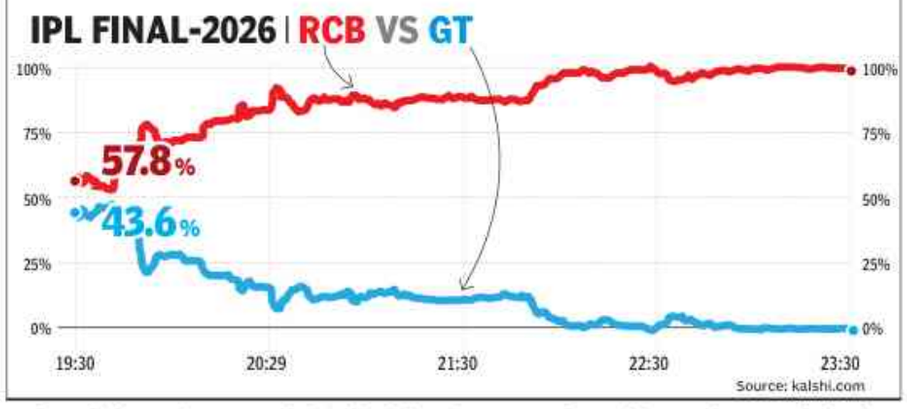
At 7:30 pm, before the IPL final had properly revealed its hand, prediction market Kalshi was already giving Royal Challengers Bengaluru an edge over Gujarat Titans. The market priced RCB at about 58% and GT at 44%*. By the time RCB chased down 156 to win the final, that green RCB line had climbed to certainty.

That is how prediction markets such as Kalshi and Polymarket work: They turn real-world events into tradable questions. Sometimes the question is simple: "Will RCB win the IPL final?" Sometimes it sits inside a larger event, such as "2026 IPL Champion", with one possible outcome for each team.

Traders then buy "Yes" or "No" shares. Each share trades between $0 and $1, depending on what the market thinks the probability is. So if a "Yes" share on RCB costs 58 cents, the market is roughly saying RCB has a 58% chance of winning.

The price keeps moving as the match changes. A wicket, a six, a dropped catch or a required run rate can all shift the line. Traders need not wait till the end; they can also buy low and sell high during the game. Once the result is official, the correct side pays $1 per share. The wrong side gets nothing. In India, however, real-money prediction markets of this kind are not legal.

*(*The odds do not always add up to 100% because of trading spreads and liquidity gaps.)*



THE BACKROOM BRAINS BEHIND RCB'S BOOM

Andy Flower: Head coach
One of Zimbabwe's greatest batters. Brought international pedigree, T20 franchise experience, calm and tactical clarity. Process-driven approach, role clarity and sharp planning turned RCB into a disciplined unit. Guided a steady rebuild from 2024.

Mo Bobat: Director of cricket
The strategic backbone. Having worked in high-performance systems like the ECB, Bobat brought data-driven, long-term planning. Aligned recruitment, analytics and coaching, building a balanced squad for sustained success. Along with Flower, addressed old gaps in bowling depth and squad flexibility.

Dinesh Karthik: Batting coach and mentor
Brought elite playing experience to RCB's coaching group. An IPL veteran and former India stumper whose RCB finishing role earned him an India recall in 2022, Karthik offered sharp insight into T20 batting pressure, finishing and match awareness. Bridged dressing-room reality and coaching theory, guiding batters through crunch moments.

Omkar Salvi: Bowling coach
Reshaped RCB's bowling culture through discipline, execution and clear role-assignment. A Ranji Trophy-winning coach with Mumbai and former KKR assistant bowling coach, Salvi had experience in building winning attacks. Sharpened RCB's death bowling and tactical adaptability, turning an inconsistent, run-leaking attack into a reliable match-winning unit central to their title wins.

Malolan Rangarajan: Head of scouting & fielding coach
Shaped RCB's talent pipeline and fielding standards. A former cricketer, he has long led RCB's scouting, identifying domestic talent to support star names. His WPL role, including title triumphs in 2024 and earlier this year, underlines his impact.

Basu Shanker: Strength & conditioning coach
Man behind Virat Kohli's peak fitness standards, Shanker drove RCB's physical edge. Focused on injury prevention, workload management and endurance to help players sustain peak output through long seasons.

Freddie Wilde: Team analyst
Provided the analytical edge. Known for championship success across T20 leagues, he drove opposition analysis, data modelling, tactical preparation and live match-ups. His inputs shaped selection, strategy and in-game adjustments in a data-led era. TNN

AFP

CUP OF JOY: Virat Kohli (centre) with team head coach Andy Flower (left) and director of cricket Mo Bobat on Sunday

TIME TO ASK APOLLO AI

BEHIND SMILES
Men account for ~75% of suicides worldwide, often hiding depression behind a smile.
Scan to understand the signs
For any Health Query Chat with Ask Apollo AI
Apollo AI: Clinical excellence for Healthier India

Patidar dedicates title to stampede victims

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Ahmedabad: In a thoughtful gesture on a night of celebration, RCB captain Rajat Patidar dedicated his team's second successive IPL title to the fans who lost their lives in a stampede outside the M Chinnaswamy Stadium during last year's victory celebrations.

PATIDAR

As fireworks lit up the Ahmedabad sky and thousands of travelling fans celebrated the historic back-to-back triumph, the 33-year-old paused to honour those he called the franchise's "family members".

"We dedicate this trophy to our fans. Actually not fans, but family members who passed away in that tragedy. I always wanted this trophy to dedicate it to them. I don't have words to express that feeling," Patidar said at the post-final press conference.

With the title, Patidar etched his name in elite company, becoming only the third captain after Rohit Sharma and MS Dhoni to win back-to-back IPL trophies. And even as he celebrated the ultimate birthday gift — the final fell on the eve of his 33rd — the RCB skipper was already looking ahead.

"It feels really good. This is the best gift I could have asked for. But I try to stay in the present. We will celebrate today, but then the focus shifts to how we can make it three in a row," he said. "When you win trophies, you don't look at individual performances. Nothing is bigger than this."

Yet Patidar's own season was pivotal. The right-hander enjoyed his best IPL campaign since joining RCB in 2021, aggregating 501 runs in 15 matches at an average of 41.75 and a strike rate of 192.69, including five fifties.

Reflecting on that transformation, Patidar credited meticulous preparation and technical work with mentor Dinesh Karthik. "I spent a lot of time working on my game before the IPL and spoke a lot with DK *bhai* about trigger movements and technical changes. That gave me clarity," he said.

Having spent five seasons with the franchise, Patidar also pointed to a shift in RCB's culture. "I've only been here since 2021, so I can't compare with what happened before. But what I see now is a clear change in mindset," he said.

Afghans to 'host' India in T20I series in Delhi

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New Delhi: For the first time in their cricket history, Afghanistan are going to 'host' India in an international series this year, although the venue will not be their home country but the capital of India. **TOI** has learnt that plans are in place for Afghanistan to host three T20Is against India at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here.

An official announcement is awaited but the matches are slated to be played on Sept 13, 16 and 19.

Afghanistan are touring India for a one-off Test and three ODIs starting from June 6 and it is understood the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) approached the BCCI for a return tour. "BCCI and ACB share a good relationship. BCCI has been helping other boards like Ireland, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe by sending Indian teams to play a series there to boost the finances of those boards. An understanding has been reached between BCCI and ACB and an official announcement will be made soon," a BCCI source said.

"The BCCI mediated an understanding between ACB and the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) for availability to be the home base for Afghanistan for the series. The DDCA is also scheduling its Delhi Premier League T20 accordingly," sources said.

Afghanistan have been playing their home games in India and UAE over the last decade due to political troubles back home.

ICC trials pink ball to curb stoppages

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Ahmedabad: To curb the long-standing issue of bad light interrupting Tests, the ICC on Monday announced it will trial the use of a pink ball in such situations, subject to agreement from both teams, to maximise playing time under fading conditions. The decision, cleared at the ICC board meetings held on the sidelines of the IPL final, is among a series of wide-ranging reforms covering playing conditions, governance and global competition structures.

If implemented, the move could help preserve crucial playing time and enhance spectator experience. The pink ball's higher visibility under artificial lighting makes it more suitable during twilight. The pink ball could be particularly useful in cities where weather conditions frequently disrupt play," sources told **TOI**.

Technology and rule tweaks

Match officials will now have access to Hawk-Eye data when assessing suspected illegal bowling actions. The ICC will also collaborate with the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) to research improved lighting technologies for umpires and venues. The ICC board confirmed the permanent adoption of the leg-side wides trial, while other MCC law amendments will come into effect from Oct 1, 2026.

Changes were also approved for player-coach interactions in white-ball internationals. Head coaches will now be allowed to enter the field during official drinks breaks in ODIs, aligning with existing T20I regulations.

Franchise cricket under scrutiny

The ICC also expressed concern over the rapid expansion of franchise leagues across the globe. It has decided to form a dedicated committee to study how these competitions can be better aligned with the international calendar. "From women's cricket to franchise leagues, these decisions aim to keep cricket fair, competitive and engaging," ICC chairman Jay Shah said.

Focus on women's cricket

The ICC Women's Champions Trophy 2027 has been rescheduled from June-July to Feb 14-28. Additionally, a Women's Emerging Nations Trophy will be piloted in 2026 as a 10-team tournament featuring five Full Members and five Associate Members. The qualification pathway for the 2028 ICC Women's T20 World Cup in Pakistan was also ratified. The 12-team event will see 10 teams qualify automatically, including the top eight from the 2026 edition, the host nation (if not already qualified), and the next highest-ranked side. The remaining two spots will be decided through a global qualifier.

Meanwhile, Cricket Canada has been suspended from ICC membership with immediate effect due to serious breaches of its obligations, though its national teams will remain eligible for ICC events.

TOI's Team of IPL-2026

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IPL-2026 was a season of extremes. A 15-year-old rewrote batting records as if they were practice drills. Virat Kohli discovered new gears at 37 and Rajat Patidar joined an exclusive club of captains with back-to-back titles. Batters routinely made 200-plus totals look inadequate, yet a handful of bowlers continued to find ways to dominate in an increasingly unforgiving format. Here is **TOI**'s Team of the Tournament...

VAIBHAV SOORYAVANSHI (RR)
Inns: **16** | Runs: **776** | SR: **237.3** | Avg: **48.5** | 1x**100**/5x**50**

The 15-year-old didn't just top the batting charts, he was head and shoulders above the competition. By the end of the season, he had scored 44 more runs than anyone else, with a mind-boggling strike-rate of 237.3, and cleared the ropes 29 more times than his closest challenger.

VIRAT KOHLI (RCB)
Inns: **16** | Runs: **675** | SR: **165.8** | Avg: **56.3** | 1x**100**/5x**50**

Narrowly edges out Shubman Gill due to his crunch knocks in Qualifier 1 and the final. The legend proved reinvention has no age limit. The numbers were vintage, more than 600 runs for a fourth straight season, but the approach was cutting edge.

ISHAN KISHAN (wk) (SRH)
Inns: **15** | Runs: **602** | SR: **182.4** | Avg: **40.1** | 6x**50** | Ct/St: 9/1

The 'keeper-bat had his finest IPL season. Six fifties decorated his season, but more importantly they arrived when SRH needed them the most.

RAJAT PATIDAR (c) (RCB)
Inns: **15** | Runs: **501** | SR: **192.7** | Avg: **41.7** | 5x**50**

Finds himself in elite company alongside MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma after leading RCB to a second successive title. With the bat, he was explosive. Only Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Abhishek Sharma hit more sixes than him, and among players who crossed 500 runs, only that explosive duo scored at a quicker rate.

HEINRICH KLAASEN (SRH)
Inns: **15** | Runs: **624** | SR: **160** | Avg: **48** | 6x**50**

Scored more than 600 from the middle order, a feat no batter in a major T20 tournament has managed before while batting outside the top three. Crossed the 30-run mark in 11 of his 15 innings.

NITISH KUMAR REDDY (SRH)
Mat: **14** | Runs: **302** | SR: **171.6** | Avg: **30.2** | Wkts: **8** | Econ: **10.4**

The designated finisher. While his strike-rate sat marginally behind names like Donovan Ferreira and Tim David, what stood out was how frequently he made a difference. Also made a valuable contribution with the ball.

KRUNAL PANDYA (RCB)
Mat: **16** | Runs: **226** | SR: **145.8** | Avg: **37.6** | Wkts: **14** | Econ: **8.4**

Made timely interventions. Whenever asked to step up, he seemed to find a way. His economy rate reflected control.

SUNIL NARINE (KKR)
Mat: **13** | Wkts: **15** | Econ: **6.6** | Avg: **22.6** | SR: **20.4**

One of the few who wasn't hit around the park. While teams scored at nearly 10 an over across the competition, Narine's economy rate stood at a remarkable 6.6. He conceded at under a run-a-ball five times in 13 spells.

JOFRA ARCHER (RR)
Mat: **16** | Wkts: **25** | Econ: **9.3** | Avg: **22.4** | SR: **14.4**

The pacer finished with 11 wickets more than any other RR bowler. Made early impacts, picking up 14 Powerplay wickets.

BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR (RCB)
Mat: **16** | Wkts: **28** | Econ: **7.9** | Avg: **17.9** | SR: **13.5**

Few players have enjoyed a full-circle IPL journey quite like him. He claimed 17 wickets in the Powerplay at under seven runs an over and added nine more at the death. More importantly, he delivered in the biggest moments.

KAGISO RABADA (GT)
Mat: **17** | Wkts: **29** | Econ: **9.7** | Avg: **21.6** | SR: **13.3**

Dominated the first six overs, picking up 20 wickets with the new ball. Alongside Mohammed Siraj, formed a devastating opening combination. Won the Purple Cap too.

IMPACT SUBS:

Washington Sundar (GT)
Mat: **17** | Runs: **377** | SR: **150.2** | Avg: **37.7** | Wkts: **1** | Econ: **9.1**

Rasikh Salam Dar (RCB)
Mat: **12** | Wkts: **19** | Econ: **9.4** | Avg: **21.3** | SR: **13.5**

Prince Yadav (LSG)
Mat: **14** | Wkts: **16** | Econ: **8.8** | Avg: **28.7** | SR: **19.5**

Tim David (RCB)
Inns: **15** | Runs: **305** | SR: **188.2** | Avg: **33.9** | 1x**50**

SNAP SHOTS

SERENA SET TO MAKE COMPETITIVE RETURN

Tennis great Serena Williams will make her long-anticipated competitive comeback to tennis at the age of 44 on grass at Queen's Club in London this month, the club said in a statement on Monday. "Queen's Club feels like the perfect place to begin this next chapter. Grass has given me some of the most meaningful moments of my career, and I'm excited to be back competing on one of the sport's most iconic stages," Williams was quoted as saying.

India hope for improved show: India will expect more from the dependable duo of Deepti Sharma and Richa Ghosh as they aim to sort out the middle-order woes going into the third and final women's T20I against hosts England in Taunton on Tuesday. In the first two games, India lost momentum towards the last five overs and the big-hitter Richa hasn't exactly fired in both games. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, will have to take the onus of batting till the end of 20 overs.

Veteran striker Azmoun omitted: Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun, the third-highest scorer in the history of the Iranian national team, is not among the players selected for the World Cup, according to a list published on Monday by the country's football federation.

Divyanshi bags double gold: Fifteen-year-old Divyanshi Bhowmick became the youngest Indian woman to win a WTT Feeder women's singles title in Pristina, Kosovo. She defeated Chinese Taipei's Yeh Yi-Tian, the World No. 38, 8-11, 11-8, 11-5, 7-11, 11-7. Divyanshi also won the women's doubles gold alongside Syndrela Das. The pair beat Japan's Sachi Aoki and Cocona Muramatsu 7-11, 14-12, 12-14, 11-8, 11-7.

India clinch dominant win over Korea: Captain Ketan Kushwaha scored a brace as the Indian men's hockey team registered a dominant 4-1 victory against Korea in their third Pool A match of the U-18 Asia Cup in Kakamigahara, Japan.

Brazil rout Panama: Vinicius Jr turned the Maracana into his personal welcome-home party, scoring a dazzling early goal and setting up another to fire Brazil to a 6-2 friendly win over Panama on Sunday.

Arun stars for Annsh: Arun Kumar K scored five goals to power Annsh Sports Club to a 12-0 win over Yelahanka FC in the KSFA 'C' Division League football.

Results: 'C' Div: Gp C: Black Moon: 3 (Nehminhao 29, Madhan S 33, Vimal 45) bt Victoria FC: 2 (Pagu 4, 60); Annsh SC 12 (Sheeraz 7,12, Arun Kumar K 10, 32, 33, 35, 58, Rihan 14, 15, Saleem A 16, 17, EA Aswin 41) bt Yelahanka: 0; Ronaldo FC: 0 drew with Play 365: 0. **Gp D:** Agniputhra FC: 1 (Panalavan S 60+2-pen) drew with DB United 1 (Johnson S 54-pen); RV FC: 1 (Swaroop 60+1) drew with Blue Diamond: 1 (Babu 16). **'D' Div: Gp A:** Amey 1 (Pachuau 13) drew with All Star 1 (Trishul 6); Elite SS: 7 (Mahesh 3, Gourav HC 7, Tantang 9, 38, Lun Min Khonggi 17, Jonah Maring 77, 49) bt Blues FA: 1 (Shyam 31).

ITALIANS' DAY OUT IN PARIS

Cobolli, Berrettini Power Into Last Eight; Shnaider, Kalinskaya Advance

THE TIMES OF INDIA AT ROLAND GARROS

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FRENCH OPEN

Roland Garros felt like it was exhaling on Monday, the sun soft and the air cool, an interlude after last week's heatwave, with rain forecast in the days ahead.

Flavio Cobolli, however, was not afforded the same comfort. The 10th seed had all but sealed his fourth-round match against American Zachary Svajda, before nerves crept in, his serve wavered, and the contest began to tilt. Yet just when the match appeared to be turning against him, the Italian found another gear, rallying from 0-4 and 1-5 down in the fourth set to prevail 6-2, 6-3, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (5) and reach the second Grand Slam quarterfinal of his career after last year's Wimbledon.

His compatriot Matteo Berrettini also advanced in straight sets, overcoming Argentina's Juan Manuel Cerundolo 6-3, 7-6(2), 7-6 (6) in a hard-fought contest.

Speaking on court afterwards, Cobolli, who has long labelled Roland Garros his favourite Slam, confessed he was "almost s***ting my pants" during the match's most tense moments. Cobolli dragged himself back into the fourth set in characteristic style, breaking the 23-year-old Svajda, making his Roland Garros main-draw debut, in the very first game.

AP

EYE ON THE BALL: Italy's Flavio Cobolli returns to Zachary Svajda

"We Italians are born on clay, and we have the best feeling on this surface," Cobolli said of the clay court major. "When the match is almost done, you start to think of it, and that's the problem with my character. I just want to play, play my best tennis possible. But if I think about it, especially if I'm nervous, I start to play a different tennis, and of course the Chatrier is not easy for everyone. The court was tough." Midway through the set the Italian stirred the fightback.

"I tried to stay a little bit positive. I was starting to be a little bit nervous, also with my team," Cobolli said of his battle to gain control. "I tried to play my tennis, to play as hard as possible, and I also started taking my time because I was also with a little bit less energy from the other three sets. Then I just played my tennis without thought, and at the end, it worked."

SCHNAIDER DOWNS KEYS

Diana Shnaider, the 22-year-old bandana-sporting Russian, booked her place in a first Grand Slam quarterfinal after a three-set battle with Madison Keys on Court Suzanne-Lenglen on Monday.

The 25th seed, who took the collegiate route into the professional game, overcame 19th-seeded Keys, the 2025 Australian Open champion, 6-3, 3-6, 6-0. In doing so, Shnaider reversed three previous defeats to the American and set up a meeting with either world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka or four-time major winner Naomi Osaka, who contest the night session on Monday.

Earlier, Anastasia Potapova and Anna Kalinskaya played out another tight fourth-round contest, with Kalinskaya finishing strongest. St-riking a series of decisive foreha-nds, she edged a third-set tiebreak to win 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (7) and reach her first Roland Garros quarterfinal.

Kalinskaya, who arrived in Paris with just one win from her previous four appearances, will next face qualifier Maja Chwaliska, the world No. 114, for a place in the last four.

Paparkar stuns Chen to enter third round

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Arnav Paparkar leaned on a powerful serve, winning 81 percent of first-serve points, to knock out the 15th seed Kuan-Shou Chen of Chinese Taipei and charge into the third round of the French Open boys' singles.

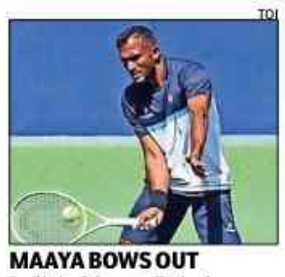
Roared on by a sprinkling of Indian fans cheering in Hindi and Marathi, the teenager wrapped up a 6-2, 6-4 win in 72 minutes.

The 18-year-old, who took early leads in both sets, set the pace in a match that could've been uphill. Chen, 5 ft 5', strong off the ground on both flanks and playing with a lot of spin, is a stayer.

Paparkar, whose first serve hit speeds of 185 and 198 kmph, threw in a generous amount of drop shots, had clearly done his homework. "I had a tactic, and it worked," he said. "I knew he was going to grind. My tactic was to bring him to the net and give him heavy shots on his backhand and play aggressively. I managed to do it consistently."

TENNIS

Paparkar, who was back on court two hours later, teamed with Thailand's Kunanan Pantaratorn in the boys doubles and came through 7-6 (7), 6-2 in 77 minutes against Britain's Mark Ceban and Russia's Kirill Filaretov in the first round.



TOI

MAAYA BOWS OUT

India's Maaya Rajeshwaran Revathi fought hard but was unable to progress beyond the second round of the junior girls' singles, the 16-year-old falling 6-7(6), 4-6 to eighth-seeded Russian Mariia Makarova in a one-hour, 37-minute contest. There was little between Maaya and Makarova as they dragged each other from corner to corner in a series of bruising rallies.

"It came down to a few decisions. I should have converted the set point," Maaya said. "I had my opportunities. She played better when it mattered the most."

BALAJI-DEMOLINER IN QF

The Indo-Brazilian combination of **Sriram Balaji** and Marcelo Demoliner put out sixth seeds Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz of Germany 7-5, 6-4 to make the French Open men's doubles quarterfinals. Puetz's serve was misfiring and he lacked his usual sharpness around the court, but Balaji and Demoliner, contesting just their fourth tournament together and carrying only one win from their first three events, accelerated at the key moments.

Zee bags WC rights

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Panaji: FIFA has stitched an eight-year agreement with Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. ('Z') for broadcast of 39 global football events, which includes World Cup 2026, World Cup 2030 and the Women's World Cup 2027.

The agreement, after months of uncertainty, comes just 10 days before the FIFA World Cup kicks off across the United States, Canada and Mexico. Viewers in India can now watch the world's biggest sporting spectacle on linear television channel (Unite8 Sports) and digital platform (Zee 5), with multi-language coverage.

FOOTBALL

"The FIFA World Cup is the greatest show on earth, and we are glad to partner with 'Z' for the first time, to bring this global spectacle to India," said FIFA's chief business officer Romy Gai. "The Indian market is of strategic importance for FIFA as it displays immense potential driven by a young and passionate audience."

Financial terms were not disclosed, but one official told TOI "FIFA is happy with the deal."

The governing body for world football has consistently maintained that India is an important market and were in no hurry to give away the rights for throwaway prices. Reliance-Disney joint venture JioStar had shown interest, while Sony did not bid.

Wesley chooses Olympiad

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Oslo (Norway): **Wesley So**'s heart is at the right place. Partly because he is nurtured by someone whose heart is golden-Lotis Key, his adoptive mother.

The elite GM has chosen the Olympiad over FIDE-approved franchise-based Global Chess League (GCL) in his September calendar. He started representing his adopted country USA in 2014 and helped them win team gold in 2016.

CHESS

He had earlier played the Olympiad for The Philippines, the country of his birth, from 2006 to 2012. "GCL ends on Sept 13 and the Olympiad begins on Sept 15. If I play both, I may not be able to give justice to both events," Wesley told TOI. "I like playing team events."

Wesley said that he is hoping that his world No. 2 compatriot Hikaru Nakamura would also choose to play the Olympiad. "But most likely, he will play the GCL." When Wesley got the confirmation of world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen's participation for the ongoing Norway tournament, he too decided to play without thinking much. Rubbing shoulders with one of the greatest players was more important than bargaining about his own appearance money for the six-player elite event.

The 32-year-old world No. 9 (Elo 2753) led the tournament with 11.5 points after six of 10 rounds on Sunday, his latest win coming over India's R Praggnanandhaa (6). Wesely overtook Alireza Firouzja of France (10) who lost to Magnus Carlsen (7.5). Wesely himself was on cloud nine after beating the Norwegian world No. 1 in the fifth round, outplaying him. He had beaten Carlsen in the 2018 edition of the Norway meet too besides humbling him in the 2019 Fischer Random final by a one-sided 13.5-2.5 scoreline. (The journalist is in Oslo on the invitation of Norway Chess)

TIMES NATION

INDIA DIGEST

A crane uproots the 64-ft Lionel Messi statue from Kolkata's Lake Town crossing Monday after concerns over its stability

'10L of axed Ladki Bahin recipients were tax payers'

Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis said Monday that 80 lakh beneficiaries of the Mukhya Mantri Laadki Bahin Yojana have been dropped from the scheme. "When scrutiny of documents from various databases was carried out, it was found that 14,000 beneficiaries were men, five lakh were govt employees, 10 lakh were income tax payees and four-five lakh were those where the household owned a vehicle," he said.

National-level kabaddi player found dead: A 17-year-old national-level female kabaddi player, who had been missing for over six weeks, was found dead in a drain Monday. Police said Anushka Pal was murdered by a fast-food vendor over a debt of around Rs 3,600. Her brother, meanwhile, claimed she had borrowed the money to fill the Agniveer form as she wanted to join the Army.

3 held for killing & burying elephant: Odisha forest department on Monday arrested three men for allegedly killing a 'makhna' (a male elephant with no tusks) and burying its carcass using an excavator in a mango orchard under Hindol range in Dhenkanal.

TMC 'forged signature' crisis: Mamata expels 2 legislators

CM Claims MLAs Had Complained To Speaker

Tamaghna Banerjee and Dipawali Mitra | TNN

Kolkata: Signgate claimed its first political scalps Monday, plunging Trinamool Congress deeper into turbulence as two of its MLAs were expelled after breaking ranks and accusing party bosses of forging legislators' signatures in paperwork linked to election of opposition leader in Bengal assembly.

Fallout came hours after CM Suvendu Adhikari revealed that Entally MLA Sandipan Saha and Uluberia East MLA Ritabrata Banerjee had complained to assembly speaker, alleging signatures of TMC legislators were improperly used in a resolution submitted to House. Their complaint, at odds with TMC's official line, strengthened a police probe that has since been handed to CID.

"Those who do not cooperate will face consequences according to the law. No one will be spared," Adhikari said, announcing a three-member SIT. "There is no BJP or state role in exposing the case. Two TMC MLAs themselves lodged complaint." Expulsions slash TMC's assembly strength from 80 to 78 once formalities are completed. Under anti-defection provisions, a breakaway camp would need 27 legislators — roughly one-third of TMC's current strength — to avoid disqualification.

TMC chief Mamata Banerjee appealed to legislators not to act rashly and took aim at Ritabrata, a former CPM politician. "It was a blunder to take in a person CPM had expelled," she said. "TMC gave him the chance to be an MP and an MLA at the cost of others."

Party functionaries scrambled to contain damage as spokesperson Kunal Ghosh alleged a broader conspiracy led by Ritabrata to engineer defections. Ghosh referred to an alleged meeting between Ritabrata and more than 20 TMC MLAs at a hotel, a charge the MLA denied.

According to Adhikari, TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee wrote to the speaker on May 9 nominating opposition leader, deputy leader and chief whip. After seeking supporting documents, assembly authorities received a resolution carrying signatures of 70 MLAs, including 14 names written in block letters. "The two TMC MLAs complained to the speaker, alleging no resolution was adopted on May 6. Complaint alleged resolution dated May 6 was fabricated," Adhikari said. Following directions from the speaker, assembly authorities lodged an FIR.

CID visits Abhishek home after MP skips summons

A six-member CID team visited Trinamool Congress MP **Abhishek Banerjee**'s Kalighat home on Monday after he skipped the agency's summons for the day. He was summoned as part of a probe into allegations of MLA signatures being forged to elect Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as Bengal's leader of the opposition.

CID had asked him to come to its office at noon. As he failed to do so, a CID team landed at his home. Banerjee has now sought 15 days to respond to the summons. While Banerjee cited health reasons for skipping the summons, no medical documents were submitted. TNN

Swapan Dasgupta among 35 new mantris in CM Suvendu's govt

Debashis Konar & Kaushik Pradhan | TNN

Kolkata: First-time MLA Swapan Dasgupta, for long the intellectual voice championing BJP's vision for his native Bengal, was among the 35 new ministers sworn in Monday, taking the strength of chief minister Suvendu Adhikari's govt to 41. Nine MLAs from north Bengal and six women took oath, raising the number of representatives from the northern districts in the state's first BJP ministry to 10 and women ministers to seven.

Thirteen legislators received cabinet rank, three were made ministers of state with independent charge and 19 as ministers of state.

"Portfolios will be distributed on Wednesday at a cabinet meeting to be chaired by the chief minister," said Tapas Roy, one of the new cabinet ministers alongside Dasgupta, who was elected from south Kolkata's Rashbehari.

Kalita Maji took oath as minister from the Ausgram constituency

CM Adhikari's first cabinet expansion saw almost all communities with elected MLAs get representation, including Matuas, Rajbanshis and Kurmis. BJP didn't field any Muslim candidates in the election. The number of ministers representing backward classes stands at 15, which is 37% of the ministry's strength. Among the seven women ministers, Moumita Biswas Misra and Kalita Maji are first-time MLAs from East Burdwan.

Entire Odisha police stn staff shunted after custodial death

Berhampur: An entire police station in Odisha, including its IPS probationer inspector-in-charge, faced disciplinary action after a 32-year-old polio-stricken daily wage worker died Monday while undergoing treatment at a govt hospital following alleged torture in custody, triggering protests and scrutiny of police conduct in the state, **reports Hrusikesh Mohanty.**

Sushant Sahu died at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur. His death marked the third alleged case of police brutality reported in the state within the past fortnight. Odisha DGP YB Khurania ordered an inquiry by the human rights protection cell.

Southern range IGP Niti Sekhar withdrew independent charge held by IPS probationer Nitesh Kumar Mishra as inspector-in-charge of Kabisurya Nagar PS and transferred him to district headquarters. The IGP suspended SI Sameer Kumar Rout, assistant SI Baikutha Jena and constable Suman Kumar Sahu. A home guard driver was also ordered disengaged following a preliminary inquiry. To ensure an impartial probe, Sekhar directed Ganjam SP Harish BC to transfer all staff posted at the PS and Balichai outpost. Harish said sleuths were examining all allegations, including claims that Sahu was detained beyond the legally permissible 24-hour period. "We are verifying the CCTV footage from the police station," he added.

Police said Sahu, who had a disability in one leg caused by childhood polio, worked at a stone quarry and was wanted in connection with an alleged May 20 attack on a police team inspecting an illegal quarry. He was picked up on May 25. His family alleged he was held illegallyand subjected to severe physical abuse. "He was brutally assaulted, hot water was poured on his body and chilli applied on him," alleged Sahu's wife Mamajin.

SC asks TN govt to act against, fine 118 babus for forest encroachments

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New Delhi: To protect the globally significant biodiversity hotspot in Agasthyamalai landscape from depredation through illegal settlements, Supreme Court has ordered Tamil Nadu govt to prepare within a month a comprehensive time-bound action plan to evict thousands of encroachers, some of whom have been settled there for decades.

Warning that failure to ensure compliance with the approved eviction plan would invite administrative accountability at the highest level, the bench also asked TN govt to initiate disciplinary and legal action against 118 identified govt servants who have encroached on forest lands. The state govt may impose additional penalties on them and require them to deposit appropriate environment restitution and restoration charges with Tamil Nadu Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, it said.

Agasthyamalai landscape covers 3,500 sq km spread over TN and Kerala and has Kanyakumari Wildlife Sanctuary, Kalakad-Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve, Srivilliputhur-Megamalai Tiger Reserve and Periyar Tiger Reserve, which are home to the tiger, elephant, leopard, Indian gaur, sloth bear, Nilgiri langur, great Indian hornbill and numerous other endangered species.

ADDITIONAL PENALTIES

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta said the encroachments have persisted and proliferated because TN govt's efforts remained "in the realm of hollow promises" and "significantly below the threshold of response that the gravity and urgency of the situation demand". Posting the matter for further hearing on Aug 28, it said that though the task is onerous and involves considerable administrative, logistical and humanitarian complexity, "the court is equally of the view that the obligation to protect ecologically sensitive regions cannot stand indefinitely deferred on account of such challenges".

As for implementation on priority basis of "time-bound, division-wise encroachment eviction plan", SC said that in case the state govt failed to remove the encroachments, the Central Empowered Committee may recommend deployment of paramilitary forces to assist in the exercise.

5 judges named, SC at highest strength of 37

New Delhi: The law ministry on Monday notified the appointment of five judges for Supreme Court, taking the strength of the apex court to 37, including the Chief Justice of India.

The five new judges who will assume charges after taking oath on Tuesday are senior advocate Venkita Subramani Mohana, and four high court chief justices — Justice Shree Chandrashekhar of Bombay HC, Justice Sheel Nagu of Punjab & Haryana HC, Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva of Madhya Pradesh HC, and Justice Arun Palli of J&K and Ladakh HC.

With this, SC will still have one vacancy to be filled. The law ministry had on May 16 promulgated an ordinance, increasing strength of SC judges from 33 to 37 with immediate effect. TNN

IN-SPACe invites Pvt firms to set up ground stations at Isro's NRSC

Bengaluru: India's space regulator has taken a step toward commercialising the country's satellite infrastructure, inviting private firms to build and operate ground stations inside one of the Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro) important facilities, the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), **reports Chethan Kumar.**

EoI ISSUED

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has issued an expression of interest (EoI) seeking up to three Indian companies to establish and run satellite ground stations within the NRSC campus at Shadnagar, on the outskirts of Hyderabad.

As per the EoI accessed by TOI, the initiative is aimed at seeding a private "Ground Station as a Service" (GSaaS) ecosystem in the country, enabling commercial operators to receive satellite data, track spacecraft, and sell communication support services to domestic and international clients.

"The identified site spans approximately 9.15 acres within the NRSC premises, physically separated from existing agency facilities through dedicated fencing and access controls. Eligible operators would be permitted to install S-, X-, and Ka-band ground stations — frequency ranges critical for modern Earth observation and telecommunications satellites," as per the EOI.

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